

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

### This week's poll:

Is CUC doing enough to explain why it needs to increase its power rates at this time?

Let your voice be heard!  
Go to  
[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)  
to cast your vote.

## INSIDE



### Brazil Mudslide

It was a scene of muddy destruction in Brazil, where at least 476 were killed by mudslides.

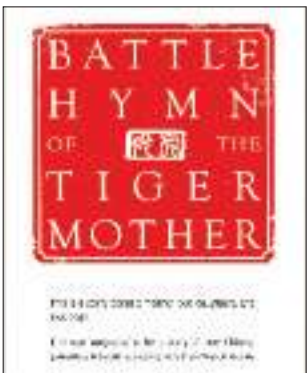
WORLD...Page 11



### Deadly Weather

A total of 42 are dead, while five remain missing in Philippine floods.

MAHARLIKA...Page 13



### Tiger Mother

A new memoir of badass parenting has unleashed a ferocious roar.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

## A DAY AFTER POWER RATE HIKE

# New 8-cent increase in gas prices

## NEW PRICES

### SELF-SERVICE

Regular: **\$4.209** a gallon

Premium: **\$4.529** a gallon

### FULL-SERVICE

Regular: **\$4.339** a gallon

Premium: **\$4.649** a gallon

Diesel: **\$4.419** a gallon



A gasoline attendant at a Shell service station in San Roque talks to a customer filling up her car yesterday afternoon. Shell Marianas increased the pump prices of its gasoline products by 8 cents a gallon, less than three weeks since the last round of gas price hikes of 10 to 12 cents a gallon, and a day after a power rate increase came into effect in the Commonwealth.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## DESPITE END OF SFSF IN SEPTEMBER 2011

# PSS vows to keep 107 ARRA-funded teachers

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The Public School System intends to keep the 107 classroom teachers it hired under the one-time state fiscal stabilization fund.

Education Commissioner

Rita A. Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that PSS is now exploring ways to retain the affected teachers once the grant fund expires on Sept. 30 this year.

PSS has over 560 classroom teachers. Of that number, 107 were recruited and hired using

the SFSF money given to PSS last year.

The Commonwealth's education system got a total of \$34 million as part of President Obama's American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009. The funding, however, will run out

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Sablan

## Fund's portfolio now at \$320M

» **'If not for withdrawals, pension program would be 60 pct. funded'**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's investment portfolio made great strides in 2010, rising to \$320 million as of Dec. 31 despite high drawdowns

for the agency's pension payouts and experts' early projections of a slow market return.

According to Fund administrator Richard Villagomez, the estimated monthly return for December was 4.38 percent while the estimated fiscal year market return from October 2009

See **PORTFOLIO** on **Page 4**

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**A**fter Thursday's power rate hike came gas price increases Friday.

Shell Marianas increased the pump prices of its gasoline products yesterday by 8 cents a gallon, less than three weeks since the last gas price hike of 10 to 12 cents a gallon.

Yesterday's price increase was the seventh since 2010, and the first one in 2011.

Since February 2009, Saipan motorists have seen an increase of at least \$1.50 a gallon in gasoline prices from what they used to pay.

Saipan motorists interviewed yesterday said it seems that the only thing that

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**Bill eyes banning texting, talking on the phone while driving. PAGE 3**  
**Suspect in 'ice' case allegedly violates house arrest condition. PAGE 5**



## Local

# New House speaker, three others switch rooms

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

Newly-elected House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) began packing and moving out of his former room at the legislative building yesterday to move to former speaker Froilan Tenorio's (Cov-Saipan) former space.

As speaker, Cabrera gets to occupy one of the biggest rooms at the Legislature.

Tenorio, however, could not move to his newly-assigned room because its current occupant—Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota)—has yet to move out of her room in the House majority side of the legislative building.

As a result, Tenorio's office materials remained in one area of his former office until he

could move into his new office.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), meanwhile, completed moving into Cabrera's former room, which is a lot bigger than his previous room, yesterday. Palacios's move is only a short distance—the opposite door of his former room.

Tenorio and Palacios, in a joint interview, said they wanted to clarify that the reassignment of rooms was the new speaker's decision.

"We don't want our colleagues to think we made the decision ourselves," Palacios said.

Santos used to be aligned with the majority but she and Tenorio had a falling out over Santos' voting mostly with the minority.

Tenorio removed Santos from

the chairmanship of the Natural Resources Committee, a post he later gave to Rep. Joseph Palacios.

Palacios and Cabrera, despite being Republicans, aligned themselves with the Covenant-Independent majority.

On Thursday afternoon, Tenorio made good on his previous statements that he will step down as speaker to be able to focus on drafting and introducing legislation and to be able to spend more time at his brother's private firm.

House members voted for a new speaker to replace Tenorio. By a 12-7 vote, Cabrera defeated minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) who was nominated in absentia by Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan).

Benavente, who was in Guam for a meeting of the Pacific Is-

lands Development Bank board of directors, expressed disappointment that Rep. Joseph Palacios and Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) broke their promise to vote for him should there be reorganization.

## Judge stands pat in ruling on fisherman's duration of injury

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Fremming Nielsen stands by his decision related to the duration of injury suffered by a fisherman who had sued after being run over by a motorboat in 2007.

In an order issued Thursday, Nielsen denied Pedro Pangelinan Pinaula's motion to amend the court's ruling to reflect the actual duration of time.

Pinaula, through counsel Joseph Horey, insisted that the duration of his injury was 29 months—not six months as the judge had earlier determined.

Nielsen, however, ruled otherwise. "The court's findings stand because they were based on the evidence presented and a reasonable interpretation thereof," he said.

The case arose from an incident on Aug. 25, 2007, when a boat being driven by Banga Bandhu Baidya run over Pinaula, who was swimming and fishing with a sling in the shallow waters off Micro Beach mid-afternoon.

When he saw the boat coming toward him rapidly, Pinaula quickly submerged to avoid being hit but the rope connecting him to his cooler used for collecting fish was caught in the boat's propeller. The propeller struck and cut the swimming fins Pinaula was wearing.

Pinaula sued Baidya and Baidya's employer, Seahorse Inc. Saipan, for negligence, reckless infliction of emotional distress, and negligent training/

Torres has been a member of the majority but because of a falling out with Tenorio when he was speaker over the choice of a Legislative Bureau director, he had been aligning himself with the minority, until Thurs-

supervision. Pinaula's common-law wife, Linda Cruz Pangelinan, joined in the lawsuit for loss of consortium.

At a bench trial last month, Nielsen found negligence both on the part of Pinaula and the defendants.

Nielsen, however, determined that Baidya's negligence caused Pinaula's injury. The judge found Baidya and Seahorse Inc. liable to pay Pinaula damages worth \$3,600.

Nielsen said that based on Pinaula's account of the duration of injury as well as the medical records, the court estimates that his injury lasted about six months.

Pinaula disputed this, saying that, based on his testimony and the medical records, the actual duration of injury was 29 months or no less than 14 months if adjusted for mitigation.

Horey said their motion to amend is necessary in order to conform the court's findings of fact to the evidence the judge accepted and relied on in reaching them.

In denying the motion, Nielsen said Pinaula and Pangelinan accurately point out that in the findings, he indicated that the six-month term of injury was an estimation.

The judge admitted that he estimated, rather than providing a concrete measurement for several reasons.

First, Nielsen said, Pinaula did not provide a reasonable explanation for the eight-month gap between the injury and seeking medical attention.

day when the voting came.

Thursday's session was called Wednesday, a few hours after Benavente left for Guam. Benavente was the only one of 20 House members who was absent on Thursday.

Second, the judge said, the medical testimony was somewhat unclear as to how many of Pinaula's health issues stemmed from his injury suffered during the accident.

Lastly, Nielsen said, he deemed the report on Pinaula's pain and restrictions by Pangelinan to be not credible.

"The court not only put no weight on her testimony, but found that reports to doctors, largely provided by Ms. Pangelinan despite the fact that Mr. Pinaula was the patient, to be likewise suspect," he said.

However, the judge said, he ultimately determined that some of Pinaula's wrist problems were caused by the accident.

"Due to this relative uncertainty, the court estimated a six-month duration, which, as it turns out, closely resembles [Pinaula's] own summation of the evidence in his motion," Nielsen said.

Nielsen noted in his findings that several months passed between when Pinaula injured his wrist and when he sought medical attention.

The judge said Pinaula confirms in his motion that the record reflects that he waited from Aug. 27, 2007 until April of 2008 to visit a physician.

Nielsen said Pinaula's decision to wait some eight months prior to seeking medical attention indicates either his testimony regarding the severity of the injury was greatly overstated or that he failed to mitigate his own damage by not attempting to seek medical attention.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Senate sergeant-at-arms John Santos helps move things out from the office of Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) to his new office that was previously occupied by now Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

## Man on probation for bank rob OK'd to join MMA tilt in Guam

The federal court granted yesterday the request of a man currently on probation for bank robbery to travel to Guam for a mixed martial arts competition.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Michael W. Mosman approved Lionel Borja's request after the U.S. Probation Office asked the court's permission to allow him to travel from Jan. 19 to 23, 2011.

Borja, who has already completed a 70-month prison term, will reportedly participate as a support team member for local competitors in the MMA competition. The MMA organization will provide Borja's ticket and accommodations.

The court had previously authorized Borja to travel to Hong Kong in September 2010 for a

similar MMA event.

Borja was sentenced in September 2005 to 70 months in prison for Hobbs Act robbery conspiracy, and using and carrying a firearm during a crime of violence for his role in the robbery of City Trust Bank in Gualo Rai in 2002.

U.S. Probation Officer Melinda B. Santos stated in a report submitted to court yesterday that Borja filed the request to travel to Guam on Jan. 6.

Santos said Borja is in full compliance with his supervised release conditions.

With the exception of his restitution to the bank, which has an outstanding balance, Santos said that Borja has completed all of his special conditions.

The probation officer said Borja pays \$100 per month for

his restitution, is gainfully employed, and has consistently tested negative for illegal substances.

Santos said Borja will complete his term of supervised release on Feb. 24, 2011.

In light of Borja's compliance, Santos said she supports his request to travel.

According to court documents, Borja and Norman Kapileo robbed City Trust Bank of \$8,649 on April 12, 2002. Before the two fled the scene, Kapileo fired a gun.

Kapileo was sentenced to 15 years and 10 months in prison. A businessman, Vann Le, was also charged after he was tagged as the mastermind in the robbery, but was acquitted of all charges in August 2005. (Ferdie de la Torre)

## A. Samoa government accused of mixed signals over furloughs

**PAGO PAGO, American Samoa.** (Samoa News/PIR)—The Governor's Office has maintained that Gov. Togiola Tulafofo has not issued any formal directive dealing with a reduction in working hours for government workers—a different story than the one that ASG Treasurer Magalei Logovi'i told a gathering of business representatives Monday afternoon.

Instead of a reduction in work hours or work days for government workers, whose salaries are funded with local revenues, Togiola told lawmakers Monday morning during his State of the Territory Address that he was proposing a hike in the

minimum alternative income tax (local personal withholding income tax) and also a hike in excise tax for certain imported goods.

He says revenue collection from these proposals would cover the US\$7.2 million expected shortfall in fiscal year 2011 for local revenues.

However, Magalei told business representatives a different story Monday afternoon, saying that a reduction of working hours is expected to start next week during the new pay period for ASG. He said money saved from this move would help pay some of the invoices for local businesses.



### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Czarina Isabel Elena Jucutan who celebrates her birthday today, Jan. 15! May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come, and may all your birthday dreams and wishes come true! Cheers to another year! Love, from all your family, friends, and most especially Aunt Jenna!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Bill eyes banning texting, talking on the phone while driving

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Texting or talking on a mobile phone while driving may become illegal in the CNMI.

This could be the case if and

## Inos reappoints Lifoifoi as Saipan rep on CPA board

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy Inos has reappointed Jose R. Lifoifoi to the Commonwealth Ports Authority's board of directors. If confirmed by the Senate, he will serve another four-year term at the autonomous agency.

"I am pleased to reappoint you to serve as a member of CPA to represent Saipan. This appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate. If confirmed, you will serve a four-year term which will expire on Jan. 17, 2015," Inos told Lifoifoi in his appointment letter on Thursday.

Inos said he and the governor are confident that, with Lifoifoi's years of service to the ports authority, he will be an asset to its board and the government.

CPA members had just re-elected Lifoifoi to the board's chairmanship—a position he has held for three consecutive years.

when Rep. Stanley Torres' (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 17-143 or the "Commonwealth Wireless Telephone Restrictions in Vehicles Safety Act of 2011" becomes law. Torres introduced the bill on Thursday.

Lifoifoi is currently the chairman of the United Micronesia Development Association, Inc. He also served as CPA chairman for four years until he quit in 2007. He was House speaker of the 5th CNMI Legislature, having been elected to the House of Representatives three consecutive times before becoming House speaker.

Lifoifoi is also the Republic of Palau's honorary consul general to the CNMI.

Other members of the CPA board include former senator Thomas Villagomez, Manny Villagomez, Benjamin Sablan, Margaret Prater, and Fermin Sakisat. There is one vacancy on the board following the expiration of the term of Rota representative Barrie Toves.

Lifoifoi, after his re-election last month, said the board's top priority is the completion of the rehabilitation of the main runway of the Francisco S. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Once the bill becomes law, those caught texting or talking on a mobile phone while driving will be fined \$50 for the first offense, and \$100 for each subsequent offense.

Even those under the age of 18 are covered by these prohibitions.

Motor bus and taxi cab drivers are also prohibited from using wireless phone to talk or text, and are subjected to greater fines—\$100 for the first offense, and \$200 for each subsequent offense.

Some countries and at least 30 states have already banned texting while driving.

Torres, one of the most senior

lawmakers, said there is growing public concern regarding the safety implications of the widespread practice of using handheld wireless telephones while operating motor vehicles.

"Many vehicle near-accidents and accidents were the result of drivers operating a motor vehicle while using wireless telephones. Accordingly, it is in the best interests of the health and welfare of the residents of [the CNMI] to enact one uniform motor vehicle wireless telephone use law that establishes Commonwealth-wide safety guidelines for use of wireless telephones while operating a motor vehicle," Torres

said in his bill.

The restrictions, however, exempt the use of telephones that are specifically designed or configured to allow hands-free listening and talking, and is used in that manner while driving.

The prohibitions also do not apply to persons using wireless phones for emergency purposes, including but not limited to, an emergency call to a law enforcement agency, healthcare provider, fire department, or other emergency services agency or entity.

Also exempt under the bill are emergency service professionals using wireless phones while operating authorized emergency

vehicles in the course and scope of their duties.

Emergency services include law enforcement, health care, fire division, and other related emergency services.

The restrictions also do not apply to persons using digital two-way radio that use wireless phone that operates by depressing a push-to-talk feature and does not require immediate proximity to the ear of the user. The bill also exempts persons driving some types of vehicles including a heavy equipment vehicle and a tow truck.

HB 17-143 adds a new Chapter 10 to Title 9, Division 5 of the Commonwealth Code.



10:30am

Hours of operation will resume at 10:30am. Call the Clinic at 664-4084 or the Administration Office at 664-4067 for further inquiries. (PR)

### ▲ OATH OF OFFICE

Acting governor Eloy Inos, left, administers the oath of office for new House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), right, during a break in Thursday's session of the House of Representatives on Capital Hill. Holding up the Bible is Cabrera's sister, Lucy Cabrera Castro, who is also the executive secretary of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### MRCDC sets executive board meeting

The Marianas Resource Conservation and Development Council will hold an executive board meeting/teleconference on Guam, Saipan, and Tinian on Thursday afternoon, Jan. 20, from 5pm to 6pm. The public is invited. For island-specific location information or special accommodation for disability call (671) 472-7447. (PR)

### Marpi closure for ordnance detonation

An ordnance disposal team from Guam will be on Saipan next Friday, Jan. 21, 2011, to blow up unexploded ordnances at 1pm.

To ensure the safety of the public, the Department of Public Safety will close off the entire Marpi area from the Last Command Post to the Bird Island lookout for the duration of this activity—from about 12pm to 2pm.

The only place that will remain open during the operation is the Suicide Cliff area for observation only. Access will be allowed through the Far East Broadcasting road and the road behind the Marianas Country Club Golf Course. For more information, contact the department at 664-9001 or 664-9022. (DPS)

### Kagman High sets PTSA meeting

The first PTSA meeting of Kagman High School for 2011 is set

to begin at 6pm on Thursday, Jan. 20, in the cafeteria. Parents, guardians, students and school staff are encouraged to attend. Write to AniciaQT@gmail.com if you have any questions. (PR)

### Former congressman Torres on Marianas Agupa

Today, Jan. 15, 2011, Marianas Agupa will feature William Torres, a former congressman and education commissioner, from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be Article 12 issues as part of the economic revitalization of the CNMI economy.

The Chamorro talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It will also feature former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Rota correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola, and Tinian correspondent and former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)

### WIC Program training schedule

The CNMI WIC Program will be closed on the following dates for Professional Development Training.

■ Jan. 21, 2011—7:30am—10:30am  
■ Jan. 28, 2011—7:30am—10:30am  
■ Feb. 4, 2011—7:30am—

### Celebrity bagging, health food demo today

The Cervical Cancer Awareness Month Committee invites the community to a Celebrity Bagging and Healthy Food Demonstration today, Jan. 15, at Super Fresh and Joeten, 3pm-5pm. Pick up some information about cervical cancer prevention and screening, sample a tasty and nutritious dish prepared by NMC-CREES partners. For more information, contact Kim Sablan of the DPH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728. (PR)

### New Year Special!

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# USCG seeks to boost emergency system on Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

The U.S. Coast Guard is proposing to install on Mount Tapochau a remote fixed facility communication site for search and rescue and identification of mariners in distress, as part of a nationwide mandate.

The facility is designed to provide an integrated emergency communication system extending 20 nautical miles from the coastline around Saipan.

It would be linked to a new watch-

standing console for Sector Guam at Apra Harbor.

The U.S. Coast Guard said it has identified the need for improved maritime distress and response communication coverage around Saipan.

U.S. Coast Guard Rescue 21 commander Steven Osgood, through William A. Freeland, wrote a letter to the CNMI government, asking for comments, issues and concerns that the islands may have that would help shape or further develop the proposed project.

"Your comments will be most useful if they are received by January 21, 2011. However, comments will be accepted and reviewed up until the time the decision on the project is made," Freeland said.

Comments may be emailed to William.A.Freeland@uscg.mil, or faxed to 907-463-2959. Questions may also be directed to Freeland at 907-463-2955.

CNMI senators were each given a copy of the U.S. Coast Guard's three-page letter about the proposed project.

The agency said the new location and equipment "will fill existing coverage gaps in Very High Frequency (VHF) marine communications used for Coast Guard operational missions, including search and rescue, maritime pollution prevention and response, maritime law enforcement, and homeland security."

The system, known as "Rescue 21," is the maritime equivalent of a "911" communication system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress.

The project will also increase the channel capacity, integrate GPS capability to acquire any distressed vessel's name, exact location and the nature of distress in case of emergency, provide digital recordings for instant playback, reduce system downtime, and provide for interoperability among Coast Guard, federal, state, and local communication systems.

These facilities would also provide improved day-to-day operational (command and control) capabilities for the Coast Guard.

## GAS PRICES

From Page 1

has not gone up is their salary; in fact, many government employees' salaries have been cut by 16 hours per payroll since October.

Mobil Oil Marianas Inc. had yet to change their prices as of yesterday afternoon. Shell and Mobil usually mirror each other's price changes.

"These days, every cent of increase will have a major effect. Your car must

be four-cylinder or less or you will end up not having money to pay for other stuff like food. But because we cannot live here without a car, gas will always be a priority," said Willie Percil, while putting gasoline on his sedan at the Shell service station in Puerto Rico yesterday afternoon.

Self-service regular gasoline at Shell now costs \$4.209 a gallon, up 8 cents from \$4.129 a gallon.

Full-service regular gasoline also went up to \$4.339 a gallon, from only \$4.259.

Shell's self-service V-Power or premium gasoline is now \$4.529 a gallon, an increase of 8 cents from \$4.449 a gallon.

Saipan motorists now also pay \$4.649 for every gallon of full-service V-Power or premium gasoline at Shell.

Diesel also went up by 8 cents, from \$4.339 a gallon to \$4.419 a gallon.

Ken Camacho, of Capital Hill, said he will have to cut down on his other expenses such as shopping for clothes.

"If it's going to be like this always, I will stay home more," he said, while

filling up his six-cylinder vehicle also at the Shell service station in Puerto Rico.

Helen Camacho, a resident of San Roque, said it's been only a few weeks since gasoline stations increased their prices, and here came another one.

"I'm disappointed. Soon my \$3 gas won't even last a day. And the prices are silently going up. They don't let us know when they will change the price. We only know when it's already changed," she said in an interview at the Shell service station in San Roque.

Lito Asuncion, also a San Roque resident, bought \$4 regular gas for his bush cutter.

"My \$4 used to be good for three uses of my bush cutter. Now, it's only good for two uses," he said.

He said Saipan residents cannot do anything about the continuous gas price increases so they'll just have to live with it and could only wish that Shell and Mobil begin to cut their prices soon.

"Maybe we should really start not using our car aircons. That will help," he said.

Aui Miones, 47, said perhaps it's about time workers in the CNMI re-

ceive wages that are at par with federal wages all at once instead of a yearly increase, so that they can afford to buy gasoline for their vehicles.

"Your minimum wage is almost only good for buying one gallon of gas," he said.

Miones, a Dandan resident, said the \$20 he and his wife have been putting in their sedan lasts only for four days now, unlike before when it would last for five days.

"Back then, your \$20 will fill up your regular car up to three-fourth of your tank. Now your \$20 is only almost half," he said.

Just like other residents, Miones said his family will now be cutting back on eating out.

Victoria Agno said gas has been a big expense for her because she lives in Tanapag but works at Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

Shell and Mobil do not issue advance notices of price increases. Saipan motorists know about such price changes by the price displays at gasoline service stations.

The prices on display at Shell, as well as Mobil, service stations are only for self-service products.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The prices on display at Shell, as well as Mobil, service stations are only for self-service products.

## PSS

From Page 1

on Sept. 30, 2011.

Sablan said that all teachers hired using the SFSF grant are highly qualified and are instrumental to PSS' goal of achieving its learning and performance goals.

The 107 recruits are "restored" positions. These posts, majority of which are classroom teachers, have not been filled due to budget cuts in fiscal year 2006. The stimulus funding allowed PSS to fill them up again. Some restored posts are school

counselors and vocational education teachers.

"We do have a plan to sustain and to maintain our personnel for next fiscal year. We're now looking at the reauthorization of the Elementary Secondary Education Act where CNMI-PSS can benefit from," Sablan said.

This Act has many titles and categories that support students and school programs relative to the education initiative of President Obama. Among these, Sablan said, is applying for the Act's Title 1 to get more financial assistance for both elementary and secondary students.

Sablan believes that by keeping the

107 ARRA-funded personnel, PSS will have zero shortfall of teachers when classes open in September.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that PSS sued about \$3 million of the SFSF funding this fiscal year to pay for teachers' salaries. About \$1.4 million was also used to pay for schools' power and water bills.

PSS projects that some \$5 million to \$6 million will be needed to continue to pay for the salaries of these HQT personnel.

For fiscal year 2011, the local government has allocated \$30.1 million for PSS operation, personnel, and others costs.

## PORTFOLIO

From Page 1

to December 2010 was 7.09 percent. For the calendar year—from January to December last year—market return was at 10.99 percent, he said.

"Overall, last year was an excellent year for returns. Contrary to early predictions made by experts, last year's market has been generous and performing on the positive side. It stabilized our portfolio despite the continuous withdrawal," said Villagomez during yesterday's board meeting.

He described the overall market performance for the Fund as "very high."

According to board chair Sixto Igi-somar, the Fund's portfolio dipped to its lowest in fiscal year 2008, when it was valued at about \$280 million. Since then, he said, the Fund's portfolio has been doing well, despite the continued withdrawals—drawdowns—being made on the investments.

In fiscal year 2009, the Fund withdrew \$43 million from its investments. Last fiscal year, drawdowns totaled some \$40 million.

If not for these continuous drawdowns, Villagomez said the pension program would have been at funded at 60 percent. Right now, the program's funding is at 30 percent only—a figure that Villagomez described as a "management un-audited estimate."

Every year, the Fund board sets a cap on the total amount the Fund can withdraw from its investments. The money

is usually used to pay for retiree's pensions. In fiscal year 2010, trustees set the ceiling at \$54.5 million.

Villagomez is recommending a higher drawdown ceiling this fiscal year due to the government's failure or delay in remitting its employer contributions. Preliminary Fund estimates project drawdowns this fiscal year to top out at \$62 million.

Villagomez revealed that the Fund made \$15 million withdrawals from October to Dec. 31, 2010. In October alone, he said, the Fund withdrew \$4.8 million.

The local court ruled in June 2009 that the central government owes the Fund over \$231 million in unpaid employer's contributions. This amount has increased to over \$300 million. Negotiating panels from both the Fund and the administration are working on a payment plan to satisfy this court judgment. Besides remitting the necessary taxes, the government was also mandated to pay a higher contribution rate.

Starting this fiscal year, the central government is mandated to remit 30 percent employer contributions to the Fund.

The Fund's assets are invested in stocks and money market funds, government bonds, corporate bonds, common stocks, and hedge fund. Local investments of the Fund include the Member Home Loan Program, investment in the Group Health and Life Insurance, the judicial building loan, and the Commonwealth Government Employee Credit Union.



# Suspect in 'ice' case allegedly violates house arrest condition

The co-defendant of a former policeman accused of methamphetamine trafficking could lose her bail privileges for allegedly violating a court order that she remain on house arrest.

Belinda O. Omengkar is now facing revocation proceedings of her bail after she was found by police inside a store—in violation of a court order that required her to always be at her mother's house.

Omengkar, a co-defendant of former policeman Florencio Q. Richards, will appear in court for her revocation hearing on Jan. 27, 2011.

The hearing was originally set for Thursday, Jan. 13, but the prosecution and Omengkar's counsel agreed to move the hearing to Jan. 17.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Omengkar with five counts of trafficking of a

controlled substance, six counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance, and one count of conspiracy to commit trafficking of a controlled substance.

Her bail was originally set at \$10,000 cash but Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo later modified this to allow Omengkar to pay \$400 cash, with the remaining \$9,600 of the \$10,000 bond serving as an appearance bond.

Govendo also allowed Omengkar's release into the custody of her 68-year-old mother and placed her under house arrest.

In September 2010, assistant attorney general Shelli Neal moved the revoke Omengkar's bail and asked the court to return her to custody.

Neal said that, on Sept. 7, 2010, police officers conducted a random check and found that

Omengkar was not at her mother's home. The officers located Omengkar at a store and escorted her out of the establishment.

Neal said Omengkar told the officers that in addition to being out of the house at the time they arrested her, she and her mother had also spent time at her aunt's residence in Koblerville over the weekend.

Neal said the mother did not alert the Department of Public

Safety or the court that her daughter had left the house where she had been ordered to stay at all times under house arrest.

The CNMI Joint Drug Task Force arrested Richards and Omengkar on July 15, 2010, inside a 1993 Hilux pickup truck parked at the Garapan Fishing Base for alleged trafficking and possession of "ice." At the time, Richards was off-duty. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Mature betel nuts getting scarce

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Individuals who prefer to chew mature or ripe betel nuts will have a hard time finding their ideal betel nuts as the island is running low on its supply.

Agriculture consultant Isidoro T. Cabrera said that only young betel nuts are available on sale in the market these days because it takes time for betel

nuts to mature.

"Not having mature betel nuts is mainly due to the season. Right now, the trees are not producing flowers," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Cabrera, betel nut trees do not produce flowers and fruits the whole year. "You only get them between May to August," he added.

Cabrera said that Saipan currently has an oversupply of young betel nuts since more and

more people have been growing their own trees. Still, mature betel nuts are scarce at this time.

"Having enough mature betel nuts is beyond our control. The only way we can get some for now is to import them from other Pacific islands like Yap, Pohnpei or Palau," said the agriculture consultant.

Cabrera noted that the shortage will be addressed once betel nut growers start harvesting in May.

## Five indicted in driver's license scam

The U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced yesterday that William A. Hocog, Mohammad Jahangir Miah, Tahira Dolores S. Miah, Hongmei Sun, and Hui Qiang Yan were indicted by the grand jury on charges of unlawfully producing and transferring CNMI driver's licenses.

The indictment alleges that one or more of the defendants issued at least four CNMI driver's licenses to foreign nationals without requiring the foreign

nationals to meet mandatory driver's license requirements, and in exchange for as much as \$400 per license.

"This is a successful first step in an ongoing and important investigation," said U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco. "The fraudulent issuance of driver's licenses to foreign nationals can create a national security threat, and can endanger the lives of the community by having individuals who are not properly licensed placed behind the wheel of what can be

a dangerous weapon."

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, with assistance from the CNMI Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is conducting the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler is prosecuting the case.

The public are reminded that the charges filed are only an accusation. The defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty. (*PR*)

## Military sets training on FDM, Warning Area-517

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 17 and Jan. 19-21, from noon to 5pm, and on Jan. 18, from 10am to 4pm, as well as on Warning Area-517 on Jan. 20, from 9:30am to 3:30pm.

The general public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the CNMI.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and

Galvez Bank.

For more information, contact the CNMI Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone

numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. (*USN*)

## Strong quake hits New Caledonia islands

**SYDNEY (AP)**—A strong earthquake hit the waters off a French territory in the South Pacific early Friday. A widespread tsunami was not expected.

The U.S. Geological Survey reported a 7.0-magnitude quake centered on New Caledonia's Loyalty Islands hit overnight.

The remote chain is about 1,000 miles (1,800 kilometers) east of the Australian city of Brisbane.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said the quake, though only three miles (4.5 kilometers) deep, was not expected to trigger a widespread, destructive tsunami. It added, however,

that temblors of such strength sometimes trigger smaller, local waves.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

The area in the southern Pacific is sparsely populated and sees frequent seismic activity, including strong earthquakes.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

### EDUCATED WORKFORCE

Workforce Investment Agency Edith Deleon Guerrero talks Tuesday about the need to educate the workforce to develop the local economy and create employment opportunities during the regular membership meeting of the Saipan Rotary Club. Looking on is Rotary president Glen Perez.

Josepha Camacho  
P.O. Box 5727 CHRB  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone No. 323-1989

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS**


IN RE THE MATTER OF ) FCD-GU-CIVIL  
THE APPOINTMENT ) ACTION  
OF GUARDIAN OF ) NO. 11-0011  
THE ESTATE OF: )  
MART CAMACHO ) **NOTICE OF**  
SABLAN AND JENNY ) **HEARING**  
CAMACHO SABLAN )  
Minor Children )  
by )  
JOSEPHA T. CAMACHO )  
Petitioner )

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor children by Josepha T. Camacho, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.


A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja on the 20th day of January, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan  
Clerk of Court

By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM  
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950



**Head Start Policy Council  
Agenda**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on January 20, 2011 (Thursday) from 5:30pm-7:30pm, Chalan Kanoa Head Start Center Resource Room, Saipan.

- I. Preliminary Matters**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Quorum
  4. Adoption of Agenda
  5. Adoption of Minutes:
    - a. December 16, 2010
- II. Public Comments**
- III. Communications**
  1. From the State Board of Education
    - a. HPC BOE Representative
  2. From the Office of Head Start
- IV. Monthly Reports**
  1. Director
  2. Managers
  3. Finance
  4. Council Standing Committees
    - a. Personnel
    - b. Education
    - c. Executive
    - d. Finance
    - e. Public Relations
- V. Old Business**
  1. Update on Family & Community Partnership Position
- VI. New Business**
  1. Action Item:
    - a. Approval on the correction of the SY 2010-2011 School Year Calendar
- VII. Executive Session**
- VIII. Next Meeting**
- IX. Adjournment**

*Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. Public Comments are limited to 15 minutes; therefore comments are limited to 3 minutes each.*

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Q. Celis at 664-3761; several days notice is required.

/s/ Mr. Anthony Barcinas  
Chairperson

**MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, January 21, 2011 beginning at 9:30am at Rota Hotel, Rota MP 96951

The following agenda is hereby established:

- I. PRELIMINARIES**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes
- II. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**
- III. CONSULTANT'S REPORTS**
  1. Investment Consultant Report
    - a. Flash Report
    - b. Advisor update
      - i. Houston Global
      - ii. Aureos
      - iii. Harbour Vest
  2. Loan Administrator Report
  3. Legal Counsel Report
  4. Board Consultant Report
- IV. OLD BUSINESS**
  1. Trustee Liability Insurance – Proposal
  2. DPL Submission – OGA
  3. CUC Request
  4. American Memorial Park fund request- status update
- V. COMMUNICATIONS**
  1. Deloitte Letter RE: Attorney's opinion on GF Distribution
  2. Letter from NMHC Homeowner
  3. Web Maintenance Proposal
  4. Bank of Saipan – Proposed Fee
  5. Senate Bill 17-43 Beneficiary Derivative
- VI. NEW BUSINESS**
  1. Election of Officers
  2. Administrative Manual- Draft
  3. Trustees' Administrative Meetings
- VII. MISCELLANEOUS**  
Trustee and Administrator Institute; Feb 2011, Florida
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF Chairman, MPLT Trustees



# Opinion

Hafa Adahi!

## Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Obama's speech inspires comfort amid mayhem

President Barack Obama was superb in his comfort of Americans on Wednesday night during a time of mayhem. He did so by solemnly recalling the particularity of each individual slain or wounded Saturday in Tucson while eloquently calling on every American to embrace a larger national purpose.

The strength of Obama's remarks lay in his effort to bring America to Tucson to create a sense of a shared national grieving. He reminded Tucsonans that Americans were with them, mourning with them and adding our faith to theirs.

Obama focused on the families—and the many Americans—who are trying to find purpose after young Jared Loughner killed six Arizonans and wounded 14 others at a "Congress on the Corner" event that Democratic Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was holding at a supermarket last weekend.

The president described the people whose lives were twisted forever that fateful morning.

By putting a story behind each name, Obama helped the rest of us realize that these victims were more than names in the paper, more than public figures.

They were human beings who shared particular moments with their families, particular challenges with their colleagues and particular episodes in their journeys.

Their stories remind us of what gave each of them significance. That knowledge makes their deaths and wounds even more painful to consider, almost impossible to absorb. Our hearts are broken, as the president said.

But he also pointed a way forward, reminding us that hope doesn't die when we are touched by evil.

Doctors say there is a new flicker of life burning in the congresswoman's eyes. And we find strength in the heroism of individuals like Daniel Hernandez, the legislative aide who literally bound up his boss's wound as she lay bleeding.

Even the event at which the victims were targeted restores our faith in democracy. As the president noted, the congressional meet-and-greet at a Tucson supermarket was "just an updated version of government of and by and for the people."

He spoke of hope and courage and emphasized what we can do to be true to those touched by this tragedy.

We must "talk with each other in a way that heals, not in a way that wounds," he wisely counseled.

While the early part of the program, at times, had the discordant feel of a pep rally, as those in the audience cheered and applauded, perhaps it was an understandable emotional release for a community that has been suffering for five days in sorrow and shame.

The mood shifted as Obama took rhetorical control and spoke movingly of the individuals and national aspirations.

As we go forward, debating what must be done to stop massacres like this from recurring, let our discussions be worthy of those we have lost.

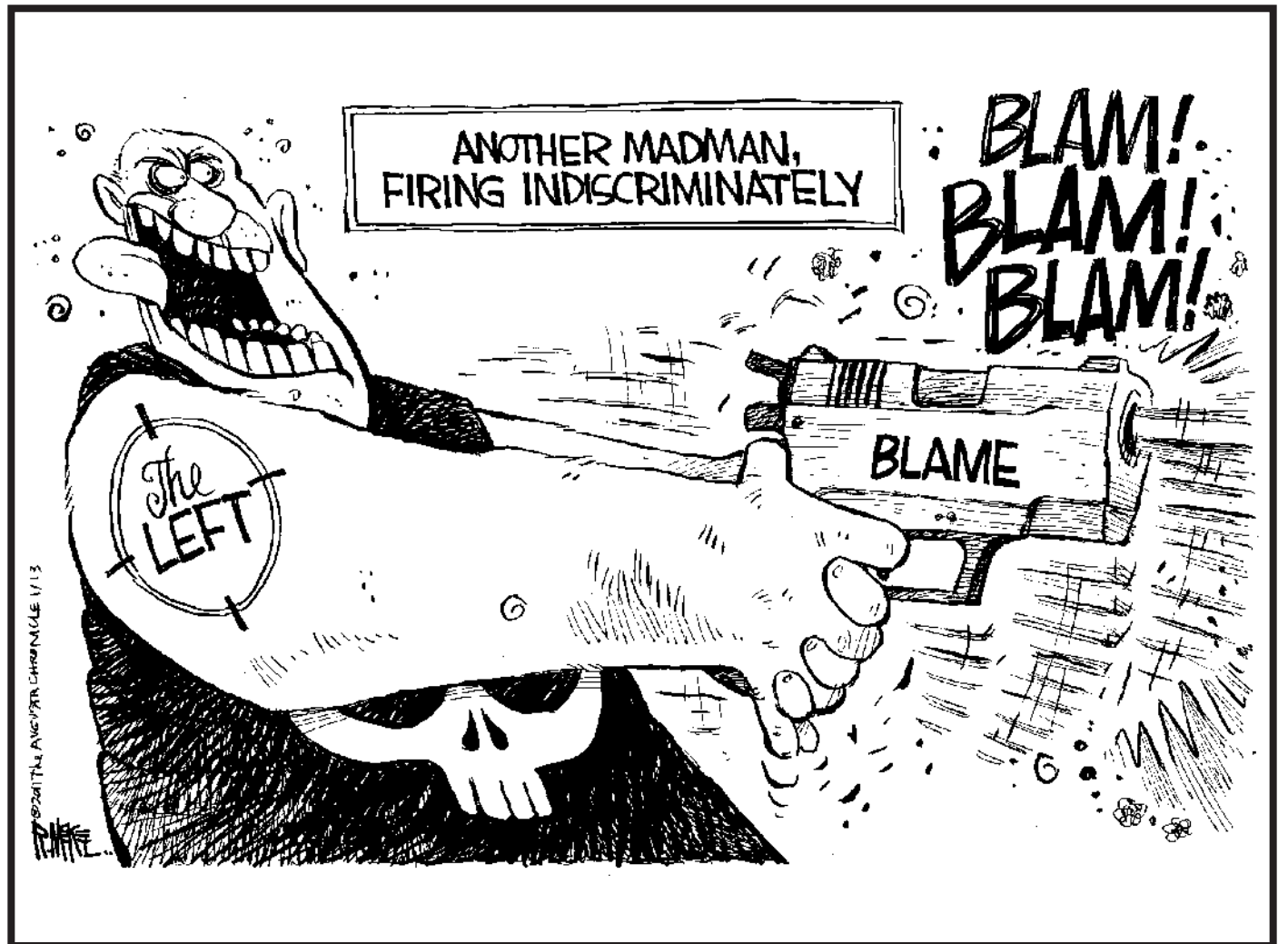
It would be a national sin to let this tragedy "become one more example of where we turn on each other."

Let us then renew our willingness to debate with dignity, understanding that those who differ from us are our fellow Americans, not our enemies.

We then can live up to the dreams of 9-year-old Christina Green, just on the brink of life. The student council member's desire to meet Giffords ended up claiming her life. But she—as the president movingly said—is why we must stay engaged with one another.

Let us live up to her ideals.

(c) 2011, The Dallas Morning News



## From ugly to just plain American

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The ugly American—the stereotypically brutish, ethnocentric, bumbling traveler abroad—is dead. He's gone the way of global U.S. hegemony, the strong dollar and mid-20th century American naivete.

Thirty years ago, the streets of major European capitals were awash with wide-eyed, culturally entitled, middle-class American tourists who were members of the first generation to take advantage of foreign travel. Once the exclusive province of the elite, the Grand Tour (albeit scaled down) suddenly became available to the average suburbanite, supported by modern transportation technology, a strong U.S. currency and America's unparalleled international status.

But if global dominance produced a certain type of traveler, it makes sense that what Fareed Zakaria has dubbed the post-American era would produce another.

I've spent the last three weeks in Britain, Germany and in Spain, and I've been struck by how unexceptional the American has become in Europe, as well as how the perception of us as a people is shifting.

Far from projecting an image of narrow-minded superiority, Americans abroad today are more reflective of the country's expanding diversity and cultural sophistication. They come from a broader array of backgrounds and traditions. Many still have strong ties to homelands around the globe.

That diversity partly explains why one recent survey of hoteliers found that of all Western travelers, Americans were most likely to speak the local language.

Linn Peterson, a Vermont native who has lived in Spain since 1977, says that 30 years ago, American tourists and expatriates were mostly interested in replicating the comforts of home abroad. "The people who come now," he says, "are looking for something other than America."

It also stands to reason that we are less "ugly" abroad because more of us confront and negotiate all sorts of cultural differences in our lives stateside. From small-town Indiana to suburban Atlanta, Americans are bumping shoulders with people from many backgrounds and negotiating cultural difference every day.

This cultural openness also comes at a time when the U.S. dollar is losing its dominance. That fact alone could easily be behind the change in attitude.

"Americans were more rude when the dollar was strong," said a longtime waiter at Madrid's landmark Cerveceria Alemana bar. Today, he told me, they are *mas suave*—more mellow.

This more diverse, culturally fluent and easygoing American tourist also meets a world that knows a lot more about the United States than it did a generation ago—and it can better match the new tourist to the new image.

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ  
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Gregory Rodriguez is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him e-mail at [grodriguez@latimescolumnists.com](mailto:grodriguez@latimescolumnists.com).



No more cowboys and Indians, for example. "Spaniards no longer ask how big our ranch is back home," Peterson says. "Thirty years ago, most of their knowledge of us came from movies and TV shows."

Not only is the world getting smaller, but changes in the United States also have given foreigners more opportunities to identify with us. The historic election of President Obama two years ago is the example that many Europeans point to.

Jeff Dayton-Johnson, a California-born economist at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, tells the story of giving a speech the day after Obama's election to a largely African-born French audience.

"People were crying," he said, "and thanking me as if I had personally delivered the White House to Obama. The election really gave people a bigger sense of our population's diversity. I don't think they see us as a people so vastly different from everyone else anymore."

And we aren't. In the 1980s, I lived in Madrid for a year, and I can attest to the fact that since then the cultural distance between Spain and the U.S. has clearly narrowed. The Spanish are more like us and we are more like them—in the clothes we wear, the way we spend our leisure time and the size of the cars we drive.

A week ago Sunday, for example, much to the chagrin of this country's ardent smokers, a public smoking ban almost as strict as California's went into effect. Likewise, the global rise of English and the mass-media-fueled international youth culture has made it a lot harder to tell who is or isn't an American at restaurants, clubs and bars.

The end of the exceptional American suggests that we're not only more invisible, but we're less of a target of outside hope or disdain.

Just a decade ago, in the days after 9/11, I was in Berlin, where I was easily picked out as an American, and strangers on the street offered me their condolences. Not long afterward, a fellow diner at a restaurant in Rome recognized me and my friends as Americans and started yelling anti-U.S. slogans at us. Admittedly, in 2011, the timing is less fraught, but no one picked me out as if I were wearing the Stars and Stripes, or made me a stand-in for U.S. politics.

I suspect that America's post-imperial angst and the rise of other global powers will have the world projecting less and less powerful feelings on the U.S. and its casual ambassadors abroad. For better or worse, we're just not so special anymore.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

# Martin Luther King Jr.

By **JAIME VERGARA**  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

**W**e took pictures of MLK Jr. at New York Ave. Presbyterian's pulpit on 13th St. in Washington DC one February day 1968, and along the Peace March route to Arlington Cemetery. Dr. King thought the Vietnam War drained the nation's ability to combat poverty so he plotted to hold an April 22 *Poor People's March* in DC.

The sleepless February all day-all night drive to DC from Dallas, Texas had my 22-year-old memory as blurry as the photographs I took. I was officially on the ride as a school photographer. The best shot in the lot was one of me at Lafayette Square by the White House with pigeons on my head and shoulder. It was a surrealistic trip.

After the anti-war rally, Martin headed to Memphis to calm down striking municipal workers; civil rights workers and anti-war sentiments were coalescing. Gene McCarthy upset the White House in the New Hampshire primary. About a month later, I figured in a car accident, brought to consciousness by the smell of spilled gasoline, called roommate to picked me up, brought to the medical center, and came to post-adrenalin at the infirmary as an exhilarated night nurse came in to turn up the TV news. "Well, well," she exclaimed, "they finally got the nigger!" This may not be uncommon in the city that made Jackie Kennedy a widow only four years before but it rankled!

King for 13 years was a disciple of Gandhi's non-violent method of political engagement. We appropriated a decade later the culture of "*Namaste*" (through you I bow to spirit), a humble affirmation of one's presence and worth through acknowledging and honoring the profound presence and worth of another, in Maharashtra's Deccan plateau while doing pedagogy in human development methods. It is an irony in history that folks like Gandhi and King meet their end in the very violence they forsake.

## Twain's forest vs literalists' small trees

By **D.J. TICE**  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

"What's kep' you? (steam) boat get aground?" ...  
"... We blowed out a cylinder head."  
"Good gracious! Anybody hurt?"  
"No'm. Killed a nigger."  
"Well, it's lucky; because sometimes people do get hurt."

**P**assages like this make "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" what it is, a work of genius and terrible beauty about moral overconfidence.

It is not every work of art that can stir up nonstop controversy for more than 125 years. "Huck Finn" is at it again this winter, setting off a coast-to-coast blizzard of blather about a scholar's plan to publish a "sanitized" version of the novel, cleansed of the N-word. He's replacing it with "slave."

By and large, what Mark Twain himself called the "thunders of prophecy" from the nation's opinion pages are rumbling and grumbling with indignation at the thought of anyone's messing with "Huck Finn." The reason, generally, is that we must not protect students or ourselves from "the full ugliness of racism" (Los Angeles Times), or "whitewash a period that deserves no whitewashing" (Alexandra Petri, Washington Post) or "sugarcoat the past" (Leonard Pitts, Miami Herald), or dream of "adulterating social, economic and linguistic history" (New York Times).

## Widening income inequality needs to be redressed

By **BRIAN GILMORE**  
PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

**W**e've got to do something about income inequality in the United States. A society is not healthy when a few people are chugging along economically and everyone else is barely making it on fumes. The statistics scream for action.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, those households earning more than \$100,000—the nation's top earners—earned 49 percent of all income in 2009. The 20 percent at the bottom of the food chain only earned 3.4 percent of all income. The income ratio between the two groups is now 14.5-to-1, whereas in 1968, it was only 7.7-to-1. In addition, in 2009, those earning less than \$50,000 experienced another decrease in wealth while those at the top raked it in.

This gaping inequality stems from government policies that favor the rich.

In 1968, the government's "War on Poverty" came to an end, as the Vietnam War escalated, and President Nixon came to power.

In 1981, when Ronald Reagan became president and his supply-

Ryan Ortizo, our erstwhile Mt. Carmel grad who started at NYU this year to be a surgeon *ala* Christiaan Barnard, a lawyer *ala* Thurgood Marshall, and an actor *ala* Lawrence Olivier all at once (relax Ryan, we are only half-serious), delighted audiences with his rendition of King's 1963 *Let Freedom Ring/I Have a Dream* speech on Saipan. We hope he discovers the tone and timber of his own voice, though we would not be too unhappy if he makes King's cadence and the content of the civil right's voice part of his own.

In that, finally, is the virtue of keeping MLK Jr. a transforming exemplar among those inclined to respond with their lives in honoring the presence and value of the lives of others. I remember a colleague who organized farmers to assert their rights before *hacienderos* (plantation owners), who later supervised workers in a coffee farm, and his workers rose in protest against his perceived harsh management methods. One has to walk one's talk if one is to be a credible witness to one's cause.

My war on poverty began after I arrived at a school in Kentucky where the good folks at the local Methodist Churches (there were a few, from the mainstream to the fringe) were only too happy to exchange greetings as long as some stay on their side of the railroad tracks. I was not well received when I pointed out that horse farms on one side were better equipped than the public school rooms on the other side.

The only skin colors darker than mine in school were those by the kitchen pots and pans chopping greens, or the two token foreign students from Liberia who were too beholden to their host to notice their segregation. I earned pocket money not included in the school scholarship by turning soot to gleam for folks who have had personal "heartwarming experiences" in the grace of God but would rather keep a colored neighbor at bay!

America's tragedy is in our schizoid personality, at once full of grace and yet beholden to past practices and prejudices that no longer abide. When we spend more effort and resource defending our

Well, OK. Huck never did want nobody to "sivilize" him, and I'd rather not see his tale scrubbed.

But there isn't much point in keeping the N-word if meanwhile we're going to miss the real point of Huck's story.

Huck could, if need be, live on without the N-word. Try it yourself. Imagine, in the passage above, that it was a "slave" killed in the explosion that hurt no one. Is something lost? Sure, but not the satire's bite.

What really deadens the power of "Huck Finn" is the assumption that it's only a story about history; that it's only about the moral failings of the past; that it's only another opportunity for modern people to congratulate themselves on their vast superiority and enjoy the ever popular pastime of repenting other people's sins.

If that's all you think "Huck Finn" is about, read something else. Twain's stuff is beyond you.

Saying "Huck Finn" is about slavery and racism in the Old South is like saying "Hamlet" is about the indecisiveness of medieval Danish princes. Or that Genesis exposes the hazards of apples and snakes.

"Huck Finn" is about the folly of ever trusting the fashionable morality of one's own time and place. Any time, any place. It's a warning that some of the worst mistakes come when we're absolutely sure about something—and everyone we know agrees with us.

Huck dramatizes this by violating the slave South's moral order without for one moment realizing that it is his society's values that are corrupt. Huck simply loves Jim, the runaway slave, as an individual, and can't help himself.

One literary critic explained that "Huck" is a lot like "Romeo

side tax policies were implemented, inequality expanded even more. The rich got a huge tax break in the Reagan era. The top 20 percent of the population controlled 80 percent of the nation's wealth back then, and the richest 1 percent controlled 40 percent. There was no looking back after this money grab.

Under President Clinton in the 1990s, there was a reduction in poverty and some improvement for the middle class. The earned income tax credit that he signed into law had a lot to do with this.

But when George W. Bush got into the White House, he railroaded through a massive tax cut for the rich that made inequality much worse.

The Obama administration has basically ignored the problem of poverty. And it has extended the Bush tax cuts for two more years, perpetuating inequality. Instead, it should begin to pursue policies that relieve the financial pressure on the poor and middle class and that promote a more equal economic society.

Addressing the housing crisis would be a good first step, either by imposing a moratorium on foreclosures or requiring banks to write down the principal on their mortgages.

Second, people need good paying jobs now. If jobs are not cre-

By **JAIME VERGARA**  
*Special to the Tribune*

*Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.*



lifestyle rather than finessing its authenticity, we lose.

MLK had his James Earl Ray who wanted Methodist George Wallace to be President. JFK had Lee Harvey Oswald who flirted with Russia's anti-America. Tucson's Congress member Gabrielle Giffords has schizoid Jared Lee Loughery (pronounced Lofner, or Loner), a product of defensive isolation after a heartrending breakup with a girlfriend, academically astute perusing Aldus Huxley's *Brave New World* but confused in his social and communication skills, and indulgent in natural hallucinogenic marijuana and salvia often used to induce visions, like apparitions of Mother Mary in Mexico.

The context of MLK was a nation that militarily profited from the World War and found itself unfamiliar in its newfound primal position in the world. He faced a society in defensive self-confidence and carved his journey on that clay.

Here's my 2011 context. I suspect it is MLK's "I've-been-to-the-mountain-top" view as well. The universe is at least, 14 billion years old. The human journey is about a hundred thousand years, and human civilization, about five. The 100K on a 54-year universe timeline amounts to the last 30 minutes before midnight. We are newcomers to the immense journey of the universe. We can no more destroy it, nor can we unduly influence its course. But of the human journey, its awe and mystery, to that, my life is committed to live as my own.

Thanks Martin for being a wedgeblade on the way.

and Juliet." Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers never question that by rights they owe total allegiance to their insanely feuding families. They betray that false duty only out of passion for each other.

The climax of Huck's story comes when he abandons all hope of ever being a good boy or doing the right thing and instead decides to help Jim escape. He tortures himself with the thought that Jim's cruel owner "ain't never done me no harm."

It is Huck's complete moral confusion—visible because we don't share it where slavery is concerned (and neither did readers in the 1880s)—that makes his story universal and timeless, and a lot more than a history lesson.

The real lesson is not that we should condemn Huck's society (that verdict was reached long ago) but that we should watch out ourselves—lest our unexamined moral assumptions turn out to be as faulty as theirs.

As sophisticated opinion rallies in defense of the N-word, the better to keep feeding modernity's moral vanity, we might want to remember another passage from "Huck Finn."

The King and the Duke, the original flimflam men who travel downriver with Huck and Jim, are debating whether the local yokels may be catching on to their latest scam. The King isn't worried.

"Ain't we got all the fools in town on our side?" he asks. "And ain't that a big enough majority in any town?"

*Doug (D.J.) Tice is commentary editor of the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may send him e-mail at [dtice@startribune.com](mailto:dtice@startribune.com).*

ated soon by the private sector, President Obama must make the case that the government has to create jobs to get people back to work just as President Roosevelt successfully did during the Great Depression.

Third, an increase in the minimum wage would help. A poll last fall by the Public Religion Institute showed that two-thirds of Americans favor an increase from \$7.25 an hour to at least \$10 an hour.

Fourth, Obama should follow the suggestion of Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and propose sending \$250 checks to everyone on Social Security. People on Social Security have not received an increase in the last two years, and 64 percent of them rely on Social Security as their primary source of income.

And finally, Obama must campaign against any further extension of the Bush tax cuts for the top 1 percent.

We Americans are a fair people. We should not tolerate the level of inequality that exists today.






*Brian Gilmore is a writer for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine. E-mail: [pmproj@progressive.org](mailto:pmproj@progressive.org).*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

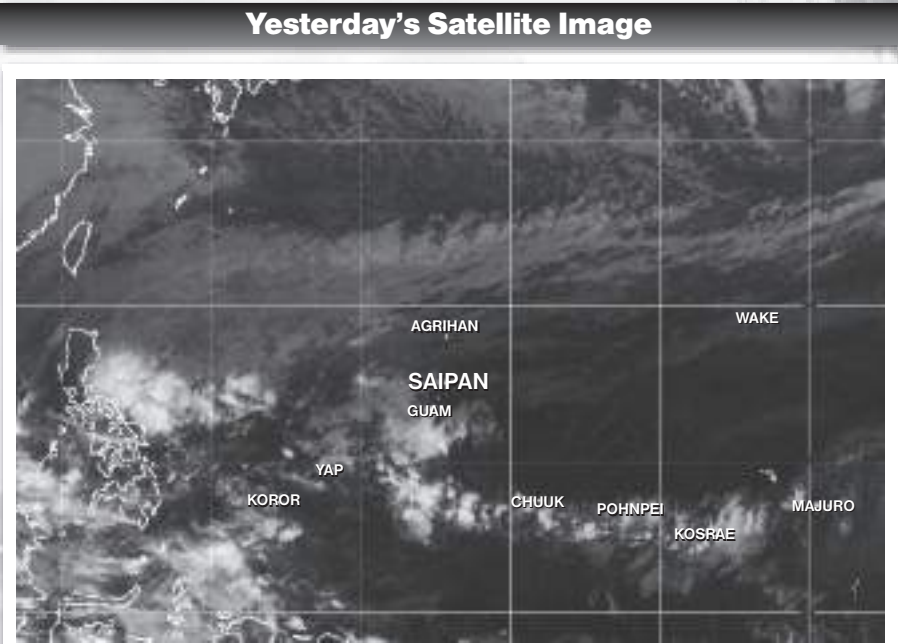
## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼78
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▼76

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Sunny	▲74 ▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲30 ▼11
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲57 ▼38
Honolulu	Showers	▲79 ▼70
London	Windy	▲52 ▼47
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲73 ▼53
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼71
Melbourne	Sunny	▲80 ▼60
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲74 ▼57
New York	Cloudy	▲34 ▼29
Osaka	Showers	▲38 ▼31
Paris	Cloudy	▲49 ▼44
Pusan	Sunny	▲34 ▼14
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲60 ▼45
Salem	Rain	▲53 ▼50
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64 ▼56
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲18 ▼5
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲42 ▼34
Washington, DC	Ice	▲42 ▼33

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
5:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:17 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
2:55 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2011**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends west-southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N167E to 18N135E then continues as a stationary front to beyond 130E at 16N. Extensive cloud cover and patchy rain are found along and up to 500 miles northwest of this boundary. A weakening shear line extends west-southwestward from 18N157E to beyond 130E at 12N west of 14N135E. Scattered showers are found northwest of Koror and Yap along and up to 180 miles northwest of the shear line. Otherwise, cloudiness and patchy rain are present along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. Converging winds associated with a disturbance southwest of the Marianas are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just northwest of Yap and Koror within 200 miles of a line from 8N130E to 14N143E. Converging trade winds are generating scattered to widely scattered showers over Pohnpei and Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from 6N156E to 5N169E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:47 AM	6:06 PM	Today	1:42 PM	2:06 AM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM	Sunday	2:33 PM	3:01 AM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM	Monday	3:29 PM	3:58 AM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM	Tuesday	4:30 PM	4:55 AM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM	Wednesday	5:32 PM	5:51 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
SAIPAN-GUAM			GUAM-SAIPAN		
C09317	4:25am	5:15am Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am 3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am 3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN		
DL287	6:10am	8:45am Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN		
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN		
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN		
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1 Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN		
FM844	2:50am	5:40am 2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN		
CA988	3:15am	6:55am 1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1 4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN		
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am 1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm 4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am 3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm 3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm 3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1 7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm 3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm 5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1 6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1 3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm 7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1 5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1 1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1 4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1 3 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1 5 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1 5 via GUM			
SAIPAN-HONG KONG			HONG KONG-SAIPAN		
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm 1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1 7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

#### NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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#### ADVERTISING

For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
<b>CATHOLIC</b> 	<b>Mt. Carmel Cathedral</b> Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm	Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143	Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)
	<b>Korean Center</b> Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm	<b>San Vicente Parish</b> Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131	<b>Immanuel United Methodist Church</b> Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158
	<b>Kristo Rai Parish</b> Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273	<b>Santa Remedios</b> Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 <sup>st</sup> Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm	<b>Immanuel Methodist Church</b> (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am
	<b>Santa Soledad Mission Parish</b> Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568	<b>PROTESTANT</b> 	<b>Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan</b> Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm
	<b>Saint Jude Parish</b> Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007	<b>Born Again Christian</b> (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm	<b>Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm
<b>San Antonio Parish</b> Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday	<b>Chinese Christian Church of Saipan</b> Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540	<b>Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan</b> Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)	<b>Thy Word Ministries Saipan</b> Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
<b>San Francisco de Borja-Rota</b> Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass	<b>Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan</b> Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: <a href="mailto:cornerstone@cfemcares.org">cornerstone@cfemcares.org</a>	<b>Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan</b> English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm	Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism
<b>San Isidro-Rota</b> Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm	<b>Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan</b> St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions	<b>Northern Marianas Christian Church</b> Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620	<b>Upper Room International Ministries</b> Sunday 5:30 am-6:30 am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan
<b>San Jose (Oleai) Parish</b> Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991	<b>Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan</b> Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680	<b>Marianas Bible Fellowship Center</b> Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm	<b>Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church</b> Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S
<b>San Roque Parish</b> Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English	<b>Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan</b> Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)	<b>Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)</b> Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566	<b>VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246
Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call <i>Saipan Tribune</i> at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email <a href="mailto:editor@saipantribune.com">editor@saipantribune.com</a> .			

# Business

## Japan replaces Cabinet in push to revive economy

TOKYO (AP)—Japan’s prime minister reshuffled his Cabinet on Friday as he tries to revive the struggling economy and expand free trade to stay globally competitive.

Naoto Kan’s new Cabinet, his third since taking office last June, will aim to push for reforms as Japan faces a string of daunting problems, including a rapidly aging population, growing national debt and an anemic economy.

The most notable changes include Yukio Edano, the ruling party’s acting secretary general, who took over as chief Cabinet secretary, and Kaoru Yosano, an independent fiscal conservative, who became minister for economic and fiscal policy.

The reshuffle, which changes about third of the Cabinet posts, is largely seen as an attempt to increase chances of passing key legislation, including the 2011 budget. Distracted by personnel issues and a scandal involving a party veteran, Kan’s government has been unable to make much progress in parliament.

“This change comes at a very difficult time for both Japan and our party,” Edano said. “Our fate depends on whether we can

achieve results.”

Edano replaces Yoshito Sengoku, who opposition parties for controversial comments on defense and diplomatic issues, such as calling Japan’s defense forces “a violent machine.”

The opposition bloc had threatened to boycott parliamentary sessions if Sengoku was not replaced.

The appointment of Yosano, a 72-year-old veteran lawmaker known as a supporter of raising the sales tax to meet the country’s climbing social security costs, suggests Kan is intent on tackling Japan’s bulging national debt, nearly twice the country’s GDP.

Yosano, an independent, held a number of senior government posts under the former Liberal Democratic Party government, and is viewed as someone who could foster consensus across party lines. He’s also in charge of gender equality and population.

He replaces Banri Kaieda, an economist and supporter of free-trade zones, who was shifted to economy and trade minister, reflecting Kan’s push to achieve his goal of opening the country by expanding free-trade deals.

## Watchdog: Citigroup rescue limited risks for taxpayers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government’s \$45 billion bailout of Citigroup met the goal of restoring the market’s confidence in the nation’s third-largest bank in the wake of the financial crisis and limited taxpayers’ risk, a new watchdog report says.

The report was issued Thursday by the office of Neil Barofsky, the special inspector general for the \$700 billion bailout of the financial industry and automakers. It found, however, that the government’s decision to aid Citigroup in the fall of 2008 wasn’t made coherently, and seemed to be based on “gut instinct” and “fear of the unknown” rather than objective criteria.

Also, the report says that by bailing out Citigroup, the government encouraged high-risk behavior by signaling that big financial institutions would be protected from failing.

The financial overhaul law enacted last summer is designed to end “too big to fail” by giving regulators the power to shut down the largest institutions if they threaten to bring down the financial system.

“The ultimate cost of bailing out Citigroup and the other ‘too big to fail’ institutions will remain unknown until the next financial crisis occurs,” the new report says.

New York-based Citigroup was one of the hardest-hit banks during the credit crisis and the recession, and its bailout was one of the largest of the rescue program.

Of the \$45 billion, \$25 billion was converted to the government’s ownership stake in the bank. Citigroup repaid the bailout. The Treasury Department says taxpayers made \$12 billion on the bailout from the government’s sale of its shares.

“We appreciate the report’s conclusions that Treasury’s investment in Citigroup was successful and ... that the government effectively limited risk to the taxpayer,” Tim Massad, acting assistant Treasury secretary for financial stability, said in a statement.

Citigroup said it is a different company today.

“We have bolstered our financial strength, overhauled our risk management, reduced our risk exposures, defined a clear strategy and made Citi a more focused enterprise by returning to banking as the core of our business,” the bank said in a statement.

Rep. Spencer Bachus, R-Ala., the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, said the report confirms that the financial overhaul law doesn’t end “too big to fail.”



## Nation

## Wounded Giffords moves arms, legs

**TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)**—Rep. Gabrielle Giffords is opening both eyes, moving both legs and arms and is responding to friends and family. Her doctors call it a “major milestone” in her recovery. “We’re hoping that she crosses through many more,” said her neurosurgeon, Dr. Michael Lemole.

Her remarkable recovery five days after being shot through the head has provided a much-needed dose of jubilation after a tragic week that left the nation in mourning.

■ ■ ■  
**TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)**—What was billed as a memorial for victims of the Arizona shooting rampage turned into a rollicking rally, leaving some conservative commentators wondering whether President Barack Obama’s speech was a scripted political event. Not so, insisted the White House and host University of Arizona.

Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs said Thursday he and other aides didn’t expect the

president’s remarks at the school’s basketball arena to receive as much rousing applause as it did. Gibbs said the crowd’s response, at times cheering and shouting, was understandable.

“I think part of the grieving process is celebrating the lives of those that were lost, and celebrating the miracles of those that survived,” he said.

■ ■ ■  
Giffords and 18 others were shot Saturday when a gunman opened fire at a meet-and-greet

she was hosting outside a supermarket in her own hometown. Six people died, including a 9-year-old girl whose funeral was Thursday.

The three-term Democrat first opened her eyes on her own Wednesday evening while surrounded by her husband, astronaut Mark Kelly, and close friends from Congress.

Her left eye, which was unbandaged, started to flicker and she struggled a bit to widen it.

“Gabby, open your eyes, open your eyes,” her husband urged her.

Kelly told her to give him a thumbs-up if she could hear him. She did more than that. She slowly raised her left arm.

President Barack Obama, who had just left her bedside to speak at a tribute for the shooting victims, announced the news to the thousands gathered in the University of Arizona arena—and to the world.

The arena erupted in thunderous applause. There were tears. And hugs.

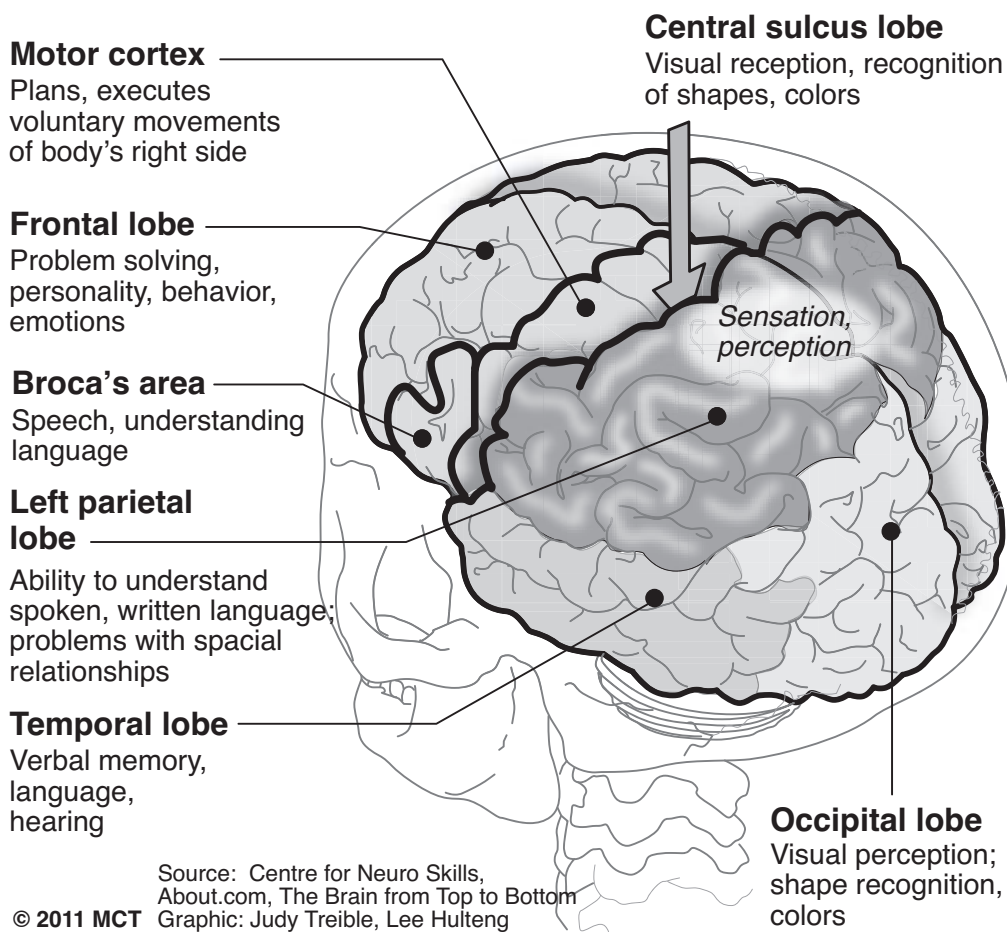
First lady Michelle Obama embraced Kelly, sitting beside her.

Giffords’ movements left her friends astonished.

“It felt like we were watching a miracle,” said Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who was at the bedside. “The strength that you could see flowing out of her, it was like she was trying to will her eyes open.”

## The left side of the brain

Doctors are trying to determine the extent of damage to Rep. Gabrielle Giffords’ brain from a gunshot. A look at the left hemisphere’s functions:



## Should Atlanta have been better prepared for snow?

**ATLANTA (AP)**—Days after a few inches of snow crippled the city, children are still home from school, icy highways are still littered with hundreds of abandoned cars and grocery stores are still running low on staples such as milk and juice.

Life in Atlanta probably won’t return to normal until late Friday, when temperatures finally rise above freezing. But the city’s helplessness in the face of a relatively mild winter storm raises a question: Should one of the South’s largest population centers have been better prepared?

Frustrated drivers and stranded travelers couldn’t help but lament Atlanta’s too-little, too-late response.

“You’ve got the busiest airport in the world, and the snow they got we would have cleaned in a matter of minutes,” said

Wayne Ulery, an Ohio man who was stuck at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport for three days. “They used things that we use for our driveways here trying to get the airport cleaned up.”

London and Heathrow Airport had similar problems recently. Hundreds of thousands of passengers were stranded in the run-up to Christmas after a five-inch snowstorm canceled flights and ruined holiday plans. The airport’s embarrassed owner had to launch an inquiry into why the snow halted traffic.

In Atlanta, city leaders are trying to take stock of the lessons learned. Mayor Kasim Reed said the next time a storm threatens, he will recruit more private contractors to supplement Atlanta’s meager fleet of 10 snowplows, and he will put them to work sooner. He also

said he won’t wait for the state to clear main arteries within the city limits.

“We want to send a clear signal that we are working,” Reed said at a press conference. “The last few days have been tough ... But we are not hiding. This is a no-excuses situation.”

Critics said the city had plenty of warning that bad weather was on the way and should have been better prepared.

“The forecast was perfect,” said state Sen. Vincent Fort. As early as Jan. 6, “we knew this was coming.”

Fort said he will push the mayor’s office to draft better emergency plans.

“I’m really disappointed with my city,” he added. “Can we really allow our city to be paralyzed for an entire week if not more?”

## Thousands gather for Ariz. girl’s funeral

**TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)**—The casket for Christina Taylor Green seemed too small to hold the grief and despair of the 2,000 mourners who packed into a church Thursday to say goodbye to the 9-year-old girl whose life began and ended with two soul-searching moments for the country.

Reminders of the innocence of the bubbly girl born Sept. 11, 2001 were everywhere: A group of little girls dressed in frilly dresses and white tights craned to see as their friend’s casket rolled into the church and Christina’s best friend sneaked them a wave from her place in the processional line.

Outside the church, more little girls—and hundreds of other people—wearing white and waving American flags lined both sides of the street for more than a quarter-mile to show their support. Hundreds of motorcycle riders from all over stood guard and more than a dozen residents were dressed as angels.

Before the service, Christina’s family and closest friends gathered under the enormous American flag recovered from Ground Zero and paused for a moment of silence, holding hands and crying. White-gloved state troopers escorted family and dignitaries into the church as a choir sang hymns.

“She would want to say to us today, ‘Enjoy life,’” said Bishop Gerald Kicanas, who presided over the funeral. “She would want to say to us today, ‘God has loved me so much. He has put his hand on me and prepared a place for me.’”

“Her time to be born was Sept. 11, 2001,” he said. “Her time to die was the tragic day, Jan. 8, 2011, just nine years old she was. But she has found her dwelling place in God’s mansion. She went home.”

As Christina’s family grieved, new developments emerged in the case when a man walking his dog found a black bag containing ammunition that authorities believe

was discarded by the suspected gunman, 22-year-old Jared Loughner.

The third-grader was one of six people shot Saturday when a gunman opened fire at a meet-and-greet event for Democratic Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who was shot through the head but survived. Thirteen others were injured.

Michelle Obama urged parents in a statement to talk to their children about the shooting to help them work through the questions they may have—even those who didn’t know Christina.

“The questions my daughters have asked are the same ones that many of your children will have—and they don’t lend themselves to easy answers,” she said in a statement. “But they will provide an opportunity for us as parents to teach some valuable lessons—about the character of our country, about the values we hold dear, and about finding hope at a time when it seems far away.”

## ACROSS THE NATION

## Wife of Mass. congressman gets 30 days behind bars

**BOSTON (AP)**—The wife of U.S. Rep. John Tierney has been sentenced to 30 days behind bars on tax charges for helping her brother conceal income from an illegal offshore gambling business. Prosecutors had asked Patrice Tierney be sentenced to two years of probation, with three months in home confinement. Tierney’s lawyer asked for straight probation. A U.S. District Court judge said at a Thursday sentencing hearing Tierney should be given jail time as a deterrent. The sentence will be followed by five months of home confinement as part of two years of supervised release.

## Tennessee county sued over Ten Commandments plaque

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)**—A northeast Tennessee man is suing his county for illegally promoting Christianity, claiming officials rejected his request to post a display on church-state separation in the same courthouse where a Ten Commandments plaque has been displayed for years. The suit claims Johnson County commissioners in June rejected Ralph Stewart’s bid to hang two posters at the Mountain City courthouse’s “public forum” area, one titled “The

Ten Commandments Are Not the Foundation of American Law.” A Ten Commandments plaque already hangs there as part of a display on American law history. The suit was filed Thursday for Stewart by Americans United for Separation of Church and State in U.S. District Court in Greeneville.

## Trial for 3 ex-cops opens in Pa. immigrant death

**WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (AP)**—Three police officers in a Pennsylvania town obstructed a federal investigation into the fatal beating of an illegal Mexican immigrant to protect white football players to whom they had close personal ties, a prosecutor said Thursday. Former Shenandoah Police Chief Matthew Nestor and two subordinates orchestrated a cover-up in the July 2008 beating death of 25-year-old Luis Ramirez in an effort to shield the teenage perpetrators, Justice Department prosecutor Myesha Braden said in her opening statement. One officer was dating the mother of one of the teens at the time, she said. “Relationships are at the heart of why these three defendants covered up a malicious crime,” she said. “Relationships combined with privilege to overthrow the rule of law.”



# Asia

## 'Heartache and grief': Australia sees flood damage

**BRISBANE, Australia (AP)**—Parts of Australia's third-largest city reopened Friday as deadly floodwaters that had swamped entire neighborhoods receded, revealing streets and thousands of homes covered in a thick layer of putrid sludge.

Garbage trucks moved through Brisbane's muddy streets and some residents dragged ruined furniture out of their homes as the massive cleanup began following one of Australia's worst natural disasters.

In towns upstream of Brisbane, soldiers picked their way through debris looking for more victims. Weeks of flooding across Australia's northeast have caused 25 deaths, and 55 people were still missing.

"There is a lot of heartache and grief as people start to see for the first time what has happened to their homes and their streets," Queensland state

Premier Anna Bligh said. "In some cases, we have street after street after street where every home has been inundated to the roof level."

The muddy waters swamped 30,000 homes and businesses in Brisbane. One man drowned Thursday when he was sucked into a storm drain as he tried to check on his father's home in an inundated neighborhood of the city. Officials expected to find more bodies farther upstream as they finally got access to hamlets struck by flash flooding on Monday.

Most of the people still unaccounted for are from around Toowoomba, a city west of Brisbane in the Lockyer Valley where a sudden downpour caused a flash flood likened to an inland tsunami. Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson said Friday that officials may never be able to find everyone swept

away by the raging torrent.

"We would certainly hope they would find them all," Atkinson said. "Regrettably, we could not exclude completely the possibility that some may never be found."

Dramatic video captured the power of the roaring water: A yacht ripped from its moorings rocketed down the river and suddenly sank after hitting a submerged object. Two men on board were thrown into the water and rescued by people on a small aluminum boat nearby.

Bligh warned the cleanup task would be of "postwar proportions." Water was still high in some areas Friday, but had pulled back dramatically in others to reveal mountains of muddy wreckage. Officials asked the Australian Defence Force for a minesweeper to search the mouth of the river for sunken debris.

## Gates: US troops help keep NKorea, China at bay

**TOKYO (AP)**—North Korea is less able to invade South Korea now than it was a decade or more ago but has become a more lethal threat to Asia and the world, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Friday.

"The character and priorities of the North Korean regime sadly have not changed," Gates said as he neared the close of a weeklong tour of North Asian capitals worried that Pyongyang might start a new war on the Korean peninsula.

"North Korea's ability to launch another conventional ground invasion is much degraded from even a decade ago, but in other respects it has grown more lethal and more destabilizing," Gates said in an address to students at Keio University.

North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons and missile technology "threaten not just the peninsula, but the Pacific Rim and international stability," Gates said.

Regarding China, Gates said that even as the U.S. military

relationship between the two countries improves, at least one area of disagreement continues: "freedom of navigation." That's a euphemism for the U.S. view that it has the right to sail its ships in waters that China claims as restricted.

Freedom of shipping and commerce have been basic principles for the United States since its founding, Gates pointed out.

He also told students that China's military sometimes does things without telling the country's senior political leadership. The communist party has firm control over the military, but "sometimes there are disconnects," Gates said.

"In the larger sense of who controls the Chinese military and who has the ultimate authority there is no doubt in my mind that it is President Hu Jintao and the senior leadership of that country," Gates said, adding the wider U.S. engagement with China he seeks could help cut through the communications problems between China's mili-

tary and political spheres.

"I believe we've seen instances where specific events displace where the Chinese senior leadership may not have known about them," Gates said.

He mentioned this week's flight test of the new J-20 stealth fighter as one such example. Gates said Hu did not appear to know about the test until Gates asked him about it.

"But on the whole, I do think this is something that is a worry," Gates said.

He also made the case for the continued presence of tens of thousands of U.S. forces in Japan. U.S. military bases on the southern island of Okinawa have become increasingly unpopular because of noise, crowding and the perception that the U.S. takes Japan for granted.

Most of the 49,000 U.S. forces in Japan are based on Okinawa.

But without those forces, "North Korea's military provocations could be even more outrageous," Gates said.

Ieng Sary, its foreign minister; and his wife Ieng Thirith, who was minister for social affairs, were ordered Thursday to be sent for trial. Court officials have suggested the trial would start midyear. Charges against the four include crimes against humanity, genocide, war crimes and murder, torture and religious persecution.

### Sri Lanka prepares for flood-borne diseases

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)**—Sri Lanka is hospitalizing pregnant women and young children to shield them from waterborne diseases in districts where floods have brought sewage into the streets, a health official said Thursday. Days of heavy rain have triggered widespread floods and mudslides, mainly in the island's Eastern Province. Five more deaths were reported Thursday, bringing the toll to 23, Pradeep Kodippili of the Disaster Management Center said. One person was reported missing and 36 others injured.

# World

## 476 die in Brazil slides, survivors relate horrors

**TERESOPOLIS, Brazil (AP)**—The power was out, but lightning flashes illuminated the horror as villagers watched neighbors' homes vanish under a wall of mud and water, turning neighborhoods into graveyards. Survivors dug at the earth barehanded Thursday, but all they found were bodies.

It was a scene of muddy destruction in mountain towns north of Rio, where at least 476 people were killed when torrential rains unleashed mudslides in the pre-dawn hours Wednesday, burying people alive as they slept. Officials would not venture guesses on how many people were missing—but fears were high that the death toll could sharply rise.

In the remote Campo Grande neighborhood of Teresopolis, now accessible only by a perilous five-mile (eight-kilometer) hike through mud-slicked jungle, family members pulled the lifeless bodies of loved ones from the muck. They carefully laid the corpses on dry ground, covering them with blankets.

A young boy cried out as his father's body was found: "I want to see my dad! I want to see my dad!"

Flooding and mudslides are common in Brazil when the summer rains come, but this week's slides were among the worst in recent memory. The disasters unduly punish the poor, who often live in rickety shacks perched perilously on steep hillsides with little or no foundations. But even the rich did not escape the damage in Teresopolis, where large homes were washed away.

"I have friends still lost in all of this mud," said Carlos



Rescue workers remove a body after a landslide in Teresopolis, Rio de Janeiro state, Brazil, Thursday Jan. 13, 2011.



Eurico, a resident of the city's Campo Grande neighborhood, as he motioned to a sea of destruction behind him. "It's all gone. It's all over now. We're putting ourselves in the hands of God."

In the same area, Nilson Martins, 35, carefully held the only thing pulled out alive since dawn: a pet rabbit that had somehow remained pristinely white despite the mud.

"We're just digging around, there is no way of knowing where to look," he said. "There are three more bodies under the rubble over there. One seems

to be a girl, no more than 16, dead, buried under that mud."

The hundreds of homes washed away in the neighborhood were turned inside out, their plumbing and electrical wires exposed. Children's clothes littered the earth, cars were tossed upside down into thickets. An eerie quiet prevailed as people searched for life. The sounds of digging, with sticks and hands, were occasionally punctuated by shouts as another corpse was located.

Conceicao Salomao, a doctor coordinating relief efforts at a makeshift refuge inside a gymnasium in central Teresopolis, said about 750 people were staying there Thursday and about 1,000 people had sought treatment in the past day. One danger she worried about was leptospirosis, a waterborne bacterial disease.

"The hospitals around here are overflowing. The army and navy are setting up field hospitals to help," she said.

"The worst is the feeling of impotence. We do what we can, but there are so many people."

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Puerto Rico aims to protect newly discovered reefs

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**—As the ocean floor plunges off southwestern Puerto Rico, it reveals coral reefs dotted with bright-blue sea squirts and a multitude of other organisms whose existence has given hope to scientists who strive to save the island's threatened ecosystems. The organisms are an integral part of a group of reefs discovered to be thriving near an area where most shallow coral reefs and the fish that depend on them are in poor health overall. The reefs—at a depth of up to 500 feet (152 meters) in an area 12 miles (19 kilometers) across—were recently discovered as part of a federally funded mission to conduct research on deep-water corals, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

#### DomRep resumes deportations of Haitian migrants

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)**—Authorities resumed mass deportations of Haitian migrants Thursday after a brief lull,

and government officers began demanding passports at bus stations as the country deals with a cholera scare. Immigration agents in the capital of Santo Domingo targeted buses arriving from other cities, fining at least 30 drivers for allowing illegal migrants aboard. Advocates for migrants accused officials of targeting people with darker skin and of sending teenagers across the border into Haiti by themselves. At least 900 Haitians were deported last week.

#### Tunisian leader says he will step down in 2014

**TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)**—Tunisia's autocratic president, struggling to contain deadly riots that have destabilized his authority, made sweeping pledges for political and media freedom and said he will leave the presidency—but not until his term ends in 2014. Facing the worst unrest in his 23 years in power, an unusually contrite President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali ordered prices on sugar, milk and bread slashed. Buoyant crowds spilled into the streets after his speech, many cheering his price cuts but some questioning his commitment to real change.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### NATO: 2 Afghan civilians killed in violence

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—A pair of insurgent attacks on Thursday killed two Afghan civilians, including a child, in part of the persistent violence across the country despite crackdowns on insurgent leaders, officials said. The child was killed by a bomb outside a music cassette shop in a marketplace in Jalalabad, some 80 miles (125 kilometers) east of Kabul, said Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, a spokesman for Nangarhar province. NATO said three other civilians were wounded in the blast.

#### Cambodia's Khmer Rouge trial gets go-ahead

**PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)**—Cambodia's U.N.-backed genocide tribunal has refused to drop indictments against four former senior members of the Khmer Rouge, rejecting their appeals. The tribunal says Nuon Chea, the Khmer Rouge's chief ideologist; Khieu Samphan, its head of state;



# Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, January 15, 2011

## Susupe pavilion rehabilitation nears completion

### Weather, construction problems slowed down project

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

The rehabilitation of a pavilion in Susupe that was expected to finish before the new year will be completed by next week. Filipino Community Founda-

tion Inc. secretary Eddie Caranzo said that the original Dec. 31, 2010, schedule for the completion of the Filipino Community Pavilion rehabilitation project had to be delayed to Jan. 21 due to a number of factors.

Located next to the Civic Center Basketball Court in

Susupe, the Filipino Community Pavilion was a project by the organization formed in 1978 and was initially called Pilipino Association in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project involves putting up a perimeter fencing around the area with entrance and exit

gates, including planter boxes.

The project also involves removing the concrete table and benches at the center of the pavilion and replacing them with concrete benches to be constructed around the pavilion perimeter.

Caranzo disclosed that weather

and construction-related problems turned out to be challenges on the part of the project contractor.

"The weather was one problem. Then there were the construction-related problems that tend to be unforeseen until you actually go to the site and start

working, just like in any construction project," he explained.

Despite the setbacks, Caranzo told *Saipan Tribune* that the project will officially be completed on Friday and that their group will announce the blessing of the facility in the coming days.



AP

#### DISASTER RELIEF

In this photo released by Malacanang Palace in Manila, Philippine, President Benigno Aquino III, right, turns over relief supplies to Gov. Joey Salceda of Albay province, in Legazpi, central Philippines, which was hit by torrential rains brought by the tail end of the cold front since last month, on Friday Jan. 14, 2011. Disaster officials said Friday, heavy monsoon rains drenching the eastern Philippines for weeks have pushed the death toll to 42.

## Guam speakers at upcoming UFO leadership seminar

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

Two officials from the Guam Lions Club are among the resource speakers at the scheduled leadership seminar this January for the umbrella organization of Filipino groups in the CNMI.

United Filipino Organization president Olive Yana disclosed that Guam Lions Club district governor Romy Angel and former district governor Goring Duenas will deliver their remarks

during the seminar slated for Jan. 22 from 1pm to 5pm at the Filipino Workers Resource Center.

Yana told *Saipan Tribune* that the leadership seminar aims to prepare organization members who have the potential to become the next officers of UFO.

"Through the leadership seminar, UFO members who also serve as officers in their respective organizations will learn about good qualities of a leader and receive spiritual guidance as well," she said.

Other resource speakers include Tan Holdings senior vice president Eli Arago, labor representative Carmelina Velasquez, and Fr. Celso Magbanua.

According to Yana, they expect to have representatives from each of the member organizations to achieve their goal.

"We really hope to realize the purpose of the seminar, which is to prepare our incoming officers," she said.

For more information, call Yana at 234-6529.

## Philippine envoy reacts to AZ shooting

Washington D.C.—Ambassador Willy C. Gaa, the Ambassador of the Philippines to the United States, has expressed deep sadness and concern on the shooting of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ) and the related death of six other victims of the attack,

including U.S. District Judge John Roll, the chief judge for the District of Arizona.

"This mindless violence aimed at U.S. government officials and innocent civilians is also an attack on all peace loving peoples," Gaa said in a statement issued Monday,

Jan. 10, 2011.

He said that his sympathies are with the family of Giffords and those of the other victims.

Gaa joins the American people in prayer for the speedy recovery of Giffords and the other casualties from the injuries they suffered. (PR)

## Philippines, Muslim rebels to resume talks

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government said Friday that it will resume formal peace talks with the country's main Muslim rebel group next month, but it was unclear how the two sides resolved a dispute over the negotiations' Malaysian facilitator.

The government wants to replace Othman Abdul Razak, an official in the Malaysian prime minister's office who has mediated for the last seven years in the efforts to grant minority Muslims in the southern Philippines broad autonomy in exchange for ending a decades-long bloody insurgency. The rebel Moro Islamic Liberation Front wants to retain him.

Philippine negotiator Marvic Leonen said after a meeting in Malaysia's main city, Kuala Lumpur, late Thursday that he was satisfied with the resolution of the issue of the facilitator and was optimistic that talks set for Feb. 9-10 will move forward.

"The government of the Philippines ... welcomes the solution of the Malaysian government on the concerns raised regarding facilitation," Leonen said in a statement, without providing details.

Philippine officials have previously indicated they consider Othman to be biased in favor of the rebels, and there were reports last year in the local press that he had leaked documents to the rebels containing the government's negotiating position. Othman has defended his record



AP

Marvic Leonen, chief government negotiator for peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, gestures as he briefs the media during the press conference Friday, Jan. 14, 2011 at the Malacanang Palace in Manila, Philippines.

in the talks but said in November that his fate lies in the hands of his government.

"If the Malaysian government decided to change him, that is the business of the Malaysian government. We cannot do anything," rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu told The Associated Press on Friday.

The Philippine government had requested Muslim-majority Malaysia to facilitate in the talks because it wields some influence over Moro rebels and has expressed interest in peace and stability in the southern Philippines. During violence in the

1970s and 1980s, tens of thousands of Filipino refugees fled to nearby Malaysia.

Formal talks collapsed in 2008 after the Supreme Court rejected a preliminary accord with the government of then-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that would have expanded an existing Muslim autonomous region in the southern Philippines.

Christian politicians in the south had assailed the deal as partition of the Philippines and sent it back to the drawing board. The rebels responded with a series of attacks and village raids that left hundreds dead and thousands displaced before a cease-fire took effect.

After President Benigno Aquino III took office in June, both sides formed new peace panels and sought to resume talks.

Chief rebel negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said in September that his 11,000-strong group was no longer demanding independence from the Philippines but status similar to a U.S. state.

The United States, which has hundreds of troops training Filipino soldiers in the south, also called for a resumption of the talks, hoping the peace process would help turn the region into an economic growth area instead of a sanctuary for al-Qaida-linked militants.

EXCHANGE RATES	
DOLLAR	PESO
\$1.00	= P44.23



# Judge approves \$7.5M payment to Marcos victims

By **AUDREY McAVOY**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**HONOLULU (AP)**—A federal judge on Thursday approved the distribution of \$7.5 million to settle a lawsuit filed by thousands of victims of torture, execution and abduction under the regime of the late former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos.

The distribution provides victims their first opportunity to collect something since they sued in 1986.

Each of 7,526 eligible members of the class-action lawsuit

will receive \$1,000 under the plan approved by U.S. District Judge Manuel Real. Distribution is expected to begin in mid-February and take about a month.

Robert Swift, the lead attorney in the case, said the payments were an important milestone for victims who have been fighting for years. Most of the victims or their surviving family members live in the Philippines.

"We know they are anxious for distribution. Most of our members are poor, very poor, and live in a Third World coun-

try that hasn't compensated them for any injuries they suffered, or loss of loved ones," Swift said during a hearing at federal court in Honolulu.

One thousand dollars may not seem like much, but the money would go far in the Philippines, where per capita income is about \$1,700, Swift said.

The funds come from a \$10 million settlement of a case against individuals controlling Texas and Colorado land bought with Marcos money. Legal fees and a payment to the person who located the properties will

consume most of the remaining \$2.5 million of the settlement.

The victims' payments will go a short way toward fulfilling a \$2 billion judgment against the Marcos estate in 1995. A federal jury awarded the money after finding the late dictator liable for torture, summary executions and disappearances of political opponents during his 20-year rule.

The victims never received any funds until now, however, because of disputes over Marcos' property. The Philippine government maintains all Mar-

cos property was stolen from the Filipino people and has fought any distribution to victims of human rights violations. This latest case was an exception, however, because Manila had already settled its own claim against the people who control the land in Colorado and Texas.

Swift said his team is still pursuing an additional \$70 million in Marcos assets through courts in New York and Singapore.

The class-action lawsuit was filed in Hawaii because Marcos fled to Honolulu to live in exile after he was deposed in

the "people power" revolution of 1986.

Marcos died in exile in 1989 without admitting any wrongdoing.

Swift said the case was groundbreaking in that it was the first class-action lawsuit filed anywhere in the world for human rights violations.

"The challenge was to show that it could be done. And it could be done efficiently and the court could manage the case efficiently. And I think we accomplished all of that," Swift said.

## 42 dead, five missing in floods; P1.24 billion worth of damage

By **KATHERINE EVANGELISTA**  
INQUIRER.NET

**MANILA, Philippines**—Estimated damage to infrastructure, agriculture and personal property due to the heavy rains in several provinces rose to nearly P1.24 billion, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council said.

In its latest situation report, the NDRRMC said that damage to agriculture have reached an estimated P407.65 million, damage to infrastructure have reached P810 million while damage to private properties remain at P21 million.

The number of affected families have also climbed to 262,107 families or some 1.355 million people in 1,450 affected villages in 25 provinces in Regions 4-B, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, CARAGA and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

Meanwhile, the casualty count remains at 42 while five persons still remain missing and eight have been reported injured due to several landslide incidents in Southern Leyte.

The NDRRMC reported that 426 houses were totally damaged while 908 were partially damaged due to the continuous heavy rain.



In this photo taken Friday Jan. 7, 2011, isolated residents crowd a Philippine Air Force helicopter to deliver relief supplies off Cagraray Island in Albay province in central Philippines.

The provinces of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur and Dinagat Island in the CARAGA region reported the most number of damage in agriculture, infrastructure and private properties, the NDRRMC added. This region also had the most number of displaced families: 112,096

families of 601,804 persons, followed by Region 8 with 66,341 families or 338,064 persons while Region 5 ranks third with 43,246 families or 220,778 persons.

The continuous rains were due to two different weather systems affecting the country: the northeast monsoon prevailing over Northern and Central

Luzon and the tailend if a cold front affecting Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, the NDRRMC said, quoting the state-run weather bureau.

In its latest weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said the northeast monsoon prevailing over Northern and Central

Luzon and the diffused tailend of a cold front continues to affect Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rains and isolated thunderstorms, Pagasa said.

Quezon province, Bicol

region, Eastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao will have cloudy skies with widespread rains, which may trigger flashfloods and landslides, Pagasa warned.

The rest of Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered light rains, the weather bureau said.

### 150 Filipinas jailed in Dubai for 'moonlighting'

**MANILA, Philippines**—Some 150 Filipina workers have been languishing in a Dubai prison cell since last month for working part-time at a wedding reception in violation of the United Arab Emirates' immigration laws.

The women were arrested while serving as part of the support and catering staff during the reception held at the Dubai World Trade Center on December 10, an overseas Filipino worker, who witnessed their plight firsthand, said Thursday.

"Their families have to be informed about what happened to them. But the problem is they're incommunicado, and

the Philippine authorities don't have access to them," said Nerissa, who asked that her surname be withheld.

Nerissa had been detained for a week on a separate absconding charge, and met the other Filipinas in a large cell that accommodated 200 women prisoners. Upon her release on January 11, she promised the other Filipinas to give word about their case to the Philippine authorities.

"It's not that the (Philippine) government doesn't want to help them, but the officials can't reach them," Nerissa said in an interview at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

## PH reaches all-time high of \$62B in foreign currency reserves in '10

By **MICHELLE REMO**  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—The country ended 2010 with an all-time high reserves of foreign currencies.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported on Friday that the gross international reserves (GIR) reached \$62.07 billion as of end-December 2010, hitting the highest level ever recorded for the country. This was up from only \$44.24 billion as of the end of 2009.

According to the BSP, the country's GIR was fueled partly by its foreign exchange operations. The central bank engaged in heavy dollar buying in 2010 to help arrest the upward pressure on the peso, whose close of 43.95 against the greenback by the end of 2010 was up by over 5 percent from that in the same period of the previous year.

The peso could have been stronger if not for the intervention by the BSP, which is keeping a policy of preventing a sharp volatility (whether due to appreciation or depreciation) of the local currency. The BSP said sharp and sudden rise or fall of the peso would be disruptive to business.

The central bank said the GIR was also boosted by the income it generated from its investments. The BSP uses portion of the foreign-exchange reserves to invest in virtually risk-free assets, mainly US treasuries.

The dollars that the BSP had been buying came from various sources, such as remittances from overseas Filipino workers, foreign portfolio investments, and investments by foreigners in the country's business process outsourcing sector, among others.

Remittances remained strong last year amid recovery of the global economy from the reces-

sion in 2009. Economists said the rebound led to increase in jobs for Filipino workers, thus increasing remittances.

Foreign portfolio investments were also up sharply last year as yield-seeking investors bet on emerging Asian economies, which outperformed the United States and other industrialized nations in the West in terms of economic growth.

The Philippines grew by 7.5 percent in the first three quarters of 2010, up sharply from 1.1 percent in 2009.

The robust growth rate, economists said, encouraged investors to place funds in the country's stock market and fixed-income securities.

The BSP also said investments in the country's BPO industry was boosted by the growth in call center seats, as more and more foreign companies were choosing the Philippines for

their outsourcing needs.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the country's growing GIR was one of the reasons the country got the favor of credit rating agencies.

Last year, the Standard & Poor's upgraded the country's credit rating by a notch, or from three to two notches below investment grade.

On Thursday, Moody's Investors Services lifted its outlook on the Philippines from "stable" to "positive."

The BSP said the latest GIR was enough to cover for 10.8 months worth of the country's usual imports, and was 5.7 times the country's debts maturing within one year.

Credit rating firms said the rising GIR indicated that the country's ability to settle its foreign currency-denominated liabilities has been improving as well.

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# Rice importation overprice: \$60 per ton

» NFA debt hit P177B during Arroyo's term

By NORMAN BORDADORA  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Rice that the National Food Authority imported during the last three years of the Arroyo administration was overpriced by \$125 per metric ton, NFA Administrator Lito Banayo said.

Banayo said an audit of the 10-year importation record of the NFA showed that its rice imports were overpriced by an average of \$60 per metric ton.

Banayo said fictitious cooperatives and corporations that took part in the purchase of cereals from abroad piggybacked smuggled rice on the NFA importation program.

During the global grains crisis in 2008, the Philippines became the world's biggest importer of rice, with its purchases driving up the cost of the cereal on the international market.

Banayo said the huge overprice and excessive importation of rice pushed up the NFA debt to P177 billion.

In a report he submitted to President Benigno Aquino III on Jan. 10, Banayo said the overprice in 2008-2010 accounted for 83.6 percent of the total amount of overprice during the 10-year period.

"When we took over on July 8, 2010, we discovered that the NFA had stocks equivalent to 70 days supply of the total

national requirement even if our mandate called for a 30-day inventory level during the lean months which begin July 1 each year," Banayo said in his report.

"Worse, a good portion of these stocks were sourced in 2008 and had to be disposed of early to avoid spoilage," he said.

## Supplier credit

Of the P176.7 billion in NFA's government-guaranteed debt, P62 billion was in the form of supplier credits, Banayo said.

He said the previous NFA's pretermination of its bonds resulted in losses ranging from P1.3 billion to P3.3 billion.

Banayo submitted the written executive summary to the President for his perusal before the NFA administrator's formal presentation of the agency's findings Thursday afternoon.

During the early days of his administration, Mr. Aquino directed Banayo to look into the rice importation procedures of the previous administration after it was learned that a huge amount of rice was found in NFA warehouses across the country and was in danger of rotting.

"Analyzing the 10-year record of importation by the NFA, auditors determined that compared with world market spot prices, private importation and other indicators, NFA's average import

## WHAT WENT BEFORE

# Overimportation of rice

**MANILA, Philippines**—President Benigno Aquino III, in his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) last July, accused the Arroyo administration of overimportation of rice that caused the National Food Authority (NFA) debt to balloon to P177 billion.

Mr. Aquino said the NFA in 2004 purchased 900,000 metric tons of rice, seven times more than the shortage of 117,000 metric tons. In 2007, it bought 1.827 million metric tons, thrice the shortage of 589,000 metric tons.

The overimportation also led to the waste of excess rice as the commodity ended up rotting in warehouses, he said.

In 2009, a Reuters report said the Philippines paid almost \$550 per metric ton of rice from Vietnam in December 2008, 45 percent more than initially estimated, with critics claiming that the rice cost only \$380 per ton.

## Kickbacks

Then opposition Senators Francis "Chiz" Escudero and Loren Legarda suggested that officials close to Malacañang—high-ranking officials in the NFA and the Department of Agriculture—might have made kickbacks of as much as P13.1 billion from the alleged rice overprice.

Agriculture officials denied the allegations, saying the imported rice cost \$549.50 a ton, the actual import price agreed upon by Manila and Hanoi.

They said it was in fact a good deal

at the time "when you include the add-on costs like freight, bid and performance bonds, surveyor's fees, and the cost of money arising from the Philippine government's payments of the imports not in cash but on a deferred credit basis of six months."

A day after Mr. Aquino's SONA, the newly appointed NFA Administrator Lito Banayo said the Philippines was "swimming in rice."

## 'Midnight deal'

Banayo said some P100-million worth of rice was imported before Arroyo stepped down, even though the country was awash in the commodity. He called it a "midnight deal."

Ironically, Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala said in an interview in August 2010 that the government might have to import rice as the dry spell caused by the El Niño phenomenon reduced domestic rice production by about 10 percent in the first half of the year.

The Philippines was slightly self-sufficient in the 1970s, then returned to being a rice importer. Low production and high importation led to higher rice prices.

Now the world's top rice importer, the Philippines bought as many as 2.47 million metric tons of the commodity to fill its requirements for 2010. Inquirer Research

Source: Inquirer Archives

prices were overpriced at about \$60 per metric ton," Banayo said.

"In the last three years alone (2008 to 2010) the average overprice amounted to \$125 per metric ton," he added.

## Favored businessmen

Banayo said that when the NFA al-

lowed businessmen to import 200,000 metric tons to remove the pressure on the government to shoulder the costs of all rice imports, favored contractors were able to corner the allocations.

"While the purpose was correct, the procedures and practices were wrong. Instead of bidding out the service fees

that would accrue to government, a 'first come-first served' method was employed, which allowed 'favored' participants to corner the allocations," the NFA head said.

"Among the findings were fictitious cooperatives and corporations were given the quotas, and the qualification standards were extremely liberal. Also control measures were not put in place which allowed smuggled rice to piggyback on legal PSF (private sector-financed importation) imports," he added.

Banayo also told Mr. Aquino of the zero-coupon bond investments that resulted in multibillion-peso losses for the NFA.

He said that in 2003 and 2005, the NFA at the recommendation of then NFA Administrator Arthur Yap borrowed money "by way of purchasing (government) bonds with a face value of P16.5 billion with a maturity period of seven years." [Yap ran for congressman unopposed in Bohol last year.]

## No income from bond

"The NFA had to borrow money to pay quarterly interest without receiving any income from the bond (zero-coupon). Arranger fees to the tune of P230 million were paid to Landbank and ONL Consultants (a private financial consultancy firm which was the subject of a Senate inquiry in 2009 for the Quedancor swine-lending program)," Banayo said.

"The fee far exceeded the 1-percent limit for such services," he added.

## Preterminated

In December 2009 and January 2010, the NFA preterminated its bonds and sold them before they matured, "thus losing P1.3 billion to P3.3 billion on top of the front-end fees paid to the financial advisors," Banayo said.

"These and other attendant findings will be presented to Your Excellency along with reform prescriptions some of which have already been adopted," Banayo told the President.

The Inquirer obtained a copy of the report with the help of Palace sources.

# Accidental massacre victim: OFW raped, killed

By PHILIP TUBEZA  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—An overseas Filipino worker on vacation from Qatar was en route to the hospital with her ailing husband.

Their vehicle was not even part of the Mangudadatu convoy.

She ended up among the women raped and killed in the 2009 Maguindanao massacre.

This was the testimony of a medico-legal expert from the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory at the resumption Thursday of the Maguindanao massacre trial.

There were traces of semen and a contusion in 51-year-old Cecille Lechonsito's private parts, Chief Insp. Dean Cabrera told presiding Judge Jocelyn Solis Reyes.

Private prosecutor Harry Roque said the couple could not have had sex immediately prior to their being shot dead because her husband Eduardo was then suffering from high blood pressure.

But defense lawyer Andres Manuel cited Cabrera's statement that semen could be detected in a woman's vagina after 72 hours, and managed to have sexual "abuse" stricken from his testimony.

Noting that Cabrera had also mentioned sexual "contact," Judge Reyes granted Manuel's verbal motion.

Cabrera said Lechonsito, the third female victim of the massacre whose autopsy showed signs of sexual assault, was also shot point-blank in the mouth. He said there were six other

gunshot wounds and two other contusions in the body.

"From my examination of the victim, I can conclude she died in a violent manner," he added.

Lechonsito's sister, Eden Sandoval, wept upon listening to Cabrera.

"They're monsters. They're not human. How could they do this?" she said of the killers of Lechonsito and her husband.

Sandoval left the courtroom before Cabrera completed his testimony.

"This is so painful," she told reporters. "My sister's two children became instant orphans. I hope a tragedy like this does not happen to anyone's family. Those who did this were monsters! God will take care of them."

## Birthday

Lechonsito was not even part of the convoy heading to the Commission on Elections regional office on Nov. 23, 2009, to submit then Vice Mayor Esmel Mangudadatu's certificate of candidacy as governor of Maguindanao, according to Sandoval.

She said that Lechonsito was just accompanying her husband Eduardo for a medical checkup in Cotabato City, and that the couple's car somehow merged with the vehicles in the convoy.

"And she was to celebrate her birthday two days later... They dug her up [from the makeshift grave] on her birthday," Sandoval said. "I was not even able to give her a (final) embrace because they had wrapped her up."



## RESTING WITH HEROES

A man and a woman sit beside the bronze statue of assassinated Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., right, and Mayor Evelio Javier as they spend their time Friday, Jan. 14, 2011 at Manila's baywalk area, Philippines.

AP



# Maharlika – PinoyStyle

## CHEER FACTOR

### Oyo, Kristine say 'I do'

Actors Oyo Sotto and Kristine Hermosa tied the knot at dusk on Wednesday at Balai Isabel in Talisay, Batangas. The wedding coincided with Oyo's 27th birthday. Bride and groom are of the same age. (*Bayani San Diego Jr./Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

## 'Just like in Vegas'

By **POCHOLO CONCEPCION**  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Lani Misalucha's eyes light up while scanning the panoramic stage and plush interiors of the newly opened Newport Performing Arts Theater in Resorts World, Manila. "Wow," she gushes, "it's like being in Vegas!"

It's only been a few hours since Lani flew in from Las Vegas, where she has been residing with her husband Noli and two daughters since 2004.

But Lani looks well-rested as she talks to the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on Tuesday. The singer known for her wide vocal range is here for several engagements. She's been chosen to be the first solo artist to perform at the Newport Theater, which is opening its doors to regular concerts starting this month.

### Good timing

"It's good timing," she says of her Manila gigs. She has just finished a one-year stint at the Las Vegas Hilton, where she performed with Afro-American singer Earl Turner. "But he begged off after five months, so I had to carry on by myself."

Lani doesn't mind such happenstance. In fact, she says that her life has been a series of surprising turn of events: "Going to Vegas was not planned. Lahat ng nangyayari sa 'kin parang bigla, puro unplanned, from the start."

She points out that all she dreamed about was to have her own family.

"Yun lang siguro ang nasunod ko sa buhay ko...to get married at a young age and have kids of my own," she says.

She got hitched at age 21 to Noli Misalucha, her high school sweetheart.

Life in Vegas, Lani says, is fine, even as she admits it was one of the cities that suffered the most from the U.S. recession brought about by the subprime mortgage crisis.

What made her stay put? She didn't want her daughters' studies to be inconvenienced by moving again.

Her eldest, Louven, 19, is in college; Lian, 17, is in high school.

"Tsaka meron pa rin naman akong trabaho," Lani adds.

She discloses that she's currently in talks with a group that is interested to manage her career in the US. A respected veteran singer, she says, was the one who introduced her to the group.

Part of the plan is for Lani to record an album.

## DOLLYWOOD

# 'Save the Date' for John-Priscilla wedding

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I received the cute and unique "Save the Date" wedding invite of John Estrada and Priscilla Meirelles. It looks like a boarding pass with caricature images of the fab couple.

The big day will be on February 26 at Thunderbird Resorts Poro Point La Union. Formal invitation will follow.

Priscilla has "tamed" the restless bachelor in John. How will he manage to stay a faithful husband amid the temptation in show biz?

"As they say, nobody can seduce a happy husband," John said. "Normal lang sa guys mag-admire ng beauty but hanggang dun lang dapat pag committed ka na."

What's the most important lesson he learned from his previous marriage to Janice de Belen that he will apply to his second one with Priscilla?

"Never take your wife for granted," he

said. "She should be your first priority."

John's son will be the junior best man and his two daughters will be the maids of honor. The real honeymoon will have to wait because John is scheduled to do a soap soon. But John and Priscilla don't really need to go to an exotic place abroad for their honeymoon because wherever they are, as long as they are beside each other, love and romance surround them.

### Back in town

I'm happy that my "sis" Princess Ponzalan-Field is back in town for a vacation. How I've missed her! The good thing about our "sisterhood" (which also includes Pops Fernandez and Lielz Martinez) is that no matter how long it's been since we last saw each other, we never have to rekindle ties because we are connected in some cosmic way.

"I'll be doing a Valentine movie with Richard Gutierrez and Jillian Ward," she said. "It's a love story/drama trilogy. I

play the mom of Richard in the first episode. I can't stay long because I have to finish nursing. I will graduate in 2013."

What are her sentiments about the controversies hounding her ex-husband Willie Revillame? "I haven't seen Willie," she said. "And I'm not updated with what's happening in his life so I can't comment. But I wish him well."

I suddenly remembered the time Willie was still a struggling drummer when he married Cess. Willie's current inspiration, Shalani Soledad, kind of reminds me of Cess since they are both soft-spoken and refined.

Could Willie somehow be seeing traces of Cess in Shalani? Knowing Cess, she'll be the first one to be happy for Willie because she was the one there for him when he was down and out.

### Just engaged

Marco Alcaraz clarified reports that he and Precious Lara Quigaman got married secretly in Canada.

"Nope, we didn't get hitched," he said. "We're just engaged. I gave her a black diamond ring because that's what she's always wanted. When I proposed to her, both our families were present. Naiyak kami pareho. The wedding will be next year. We have to save up for it. Wala nang atrasan ito. I have blinders on na (laughs). 'Di na ko titingin pa sa ibang babae. What else can I ask for? Imagine, my wife-to-be is a former Miss International!"

### Bora sighting

I spotted Hubert Webb having a blast with his brother Jason and friends at Epic, the new chill-out place in Boracay. He was tinkering with his laptop. He ought to have the time of his life to make up for all the years he can no longer recapture.

### Why not?

Guess what Charice Pempengco wants to be if she were not a singer? A soldier or an entertainment lawyer. Golly Glee!

## RUSHES



Charice is due to appear in more episodes in "Glee," which returns to TVs starting Feb. 6.

## Charice endorses perfume brand for 'a friendly rate'

By **INQUIRER ENTERTAINMENT STAFF**  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Charice blew into town to perform short sets Saturday night at the SM Mall of Asia open grounds in Pasay and Sunday afternoon at Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The petite Filipina international pop star sang five songs, starting with her hit single "Pyramid" in a duet with Gary Valenciano, backed by the latter's band before an estimated crowd of over 70,000. The show was actually the 10th anniversary celebration of Joel Cruz's Aficionado Germany perfume brand, which likewise launched a new line of scents for Charice and Gary that night.

Asked to confirm whether Charice's endorsement deal was worth P10 million, Cruz replied, "I'm not allowed to say, but it was a very friendly rate."

At the media conference before her

Enchanted Kingdom show, Charice revealed that she had a fear of riding the roller coaster when she was a kid. In a mixture of English and Filipino she said, "Finally I overcame that fear by riding one here at Enchanted during my birthday last year."

The 18-year-old celebrity, who made it to the list of Entertainment Weekly's "11 to Watch in '11," likewise disclosed that she's open to acting in local movies. Asked if there are offers, she played it coy: "Yan ang hindi p'wedeng sabihin."

She's due to appear in more episodes on the TV series "Glee," which returns onscreen starting Feb. 6.

### Bamboo splits?

Fans are aghast that the band Bamboo has reportedly broken up. The group's website contains mournful comments, some of them expressing disbelief at what happened.

A text message from the staff of Bamboo's record label PolyEast said: "Rumors going around but no word yet from management."

News of the breakup was first announced on Monday by KC Montero on his radio program on Wave 89.1 FM.

### Biggest rock

A mole from the jewelry business is ecstatic with good news.

Hunky Actor has just asked his business contacts to search for the perfect engagement ring for Lady Love.

Sources suspect that HA had already popped the big question over the hectic holidays.

HA's instruction is for the biggest rock that jewelers can get their hands on.

The timing for this rumor is uncanny, though—especially since HA is about to launch a new project, while LL is reeling from negative publicity.

Perhaps rumors of a "return" engagement could spell the difference for the controversial couple?

### Real flame

Pretty Star was on the verge of fame when she suddenly bowed out of the scene.

Nosy insiders have surmised that there's a bun in the oven and the baker, ahem, the culprit, is her Handsome Costar.

HC's camp vehemently denied the scuttlebutt.

And rightly so, says a mole, because PS's real flame is a Basketball Player.

Was it a moving violation or a successful block for BP?

### My sister, my daughter

It's a scene straight from "Chinatown," minus the incest angle.

Remember luckless Veteran Actress who is in dire financial straits? She has no one else to turn to, it seems.

VA cannot run to Younger Sister who has returned home from abroad.

According to a mole, YS is not really VA's sibling. YS is actually VA's daughter.

As a restless teen, VA got knocked up and wanted to give up the baby. Her parents intervened and decided to raise their grandchild as their daughter.

Confusing family secret or urban legend?

### Same carabao grass

According to sources, more talents are raring to abandon ship and move to TV5.

There are more than a dozen defectors just waiting in the wings—including a group of dancers, along with some singers.

Perhaps they think the grass is greener in Novaliches?

An insider disagrees and insists it's the same carabao grass.

### Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's TV gabfests, and why we are moved, if we are moved.

■ Eugene Domingo, asked if she enjoyed her kissing scene with Richard Gutierrez: "Sinisigurado ko sa inyo, oo!" (That's what you call, 'no acting please'.)

■ KC Concepcion on her absence at a birthday celebration of Piolo Pascual, where he sang a virtual duet with son

Iñigo: "I really didn't want anyone and anything to get in the way nung moment nila ni PJ at nung anak niya ... I know how it feels bilang yung anak na nandun sa production na yun, I wanted it to be his and I know it made him cry."

■ Gerald Anderson on Kim Chiu: "Tulad nga po ng sinabi ko, kami ni Kim, kahit ano pa po ang mangyari sa amin, we'll still remain good friends." (O mga Kimerald, narinig niyo yan, ha.)

■ Melissa Ricks on her relationship with Jake Cuenca: "(Our dating) lasted this long kasi we kept things private. Siguro ibigay niyo na lang po sa amin yun na maging masaya na lang po kami kung ano man yung status namin." (O sya, ibigay ang hilig.)

■ Rap Fernandez on the pressure of being the son of Rudy Fernandez and Lorna Tolentino as he enters show biz: "Nakakanerbiyos kasi baka tumaas yung expectations ng mga tao, tapos hindi ko mabigay. So kung hindi ko man mabigay, pasensya na po at sana bigyan niyo po ako ng chance." (Avoid too much coffee para hindi nerbiyusin.)

### Rock star in Boracay

On the January 8 edition of "E-Live," guest host Gretchen Fullido quoted a source who claimed that Hayley Williams, former lead singer of the band Paramore, has been spotted in Boracay.

### No cameras, please

On the same edition of "E-Live," Judy Ann Santos explained why she's not ready yet to go back to work: "Mataba po ako ngayon kaya 'di niyo po muna ako makikita ... Ngayon ine-enjoy ko ang pag-e-exercise at pagyo-yoga para makabalik sa dating katawan at makabalik sa dating trabaho."

### 'Doc' Dennis

On "Startalk," also on January 8, Jenilyn Mercado related how boyfriend Dennis Trillo helped take care of her while she spent three days in a hospital due to viral infection: "Grabe ang pag-aalaga niyan. Talagang nagbabantay sa ospital, at chine-check 'yung temperatura ko lagi. Wala akong masabi."



# Maharlika – Opinyon

## EDITORIAL

### Sodden welcome

**T**he new year has been a most sudden and sodden welcome for many Filipinos. But because Bicol, the Visayas and Mindanao are remote, geographically and geopolitically, from the metropolis, the rains and floods that have been taking place there since the holidays have had the remotest coverage from the media as well as the remotest concern from the national leadership. By and large, the disasters obtaining in the regions have been nebular to the national capital. As far as Metro Manilans are concerned, the whole country can go sod.

In Mindanao, flash floods and landslides have claimed the lives of at least 10 people and displaced some 260,000 people in provinces in the Caraga region, Compostela Valley and Lanao del Norte. Butuan Mayor Ferdinand Amante said floodwaters inundated nearly half or 43 of the city's 88 barangays. A total of 21,875 people or 4,375 families, mostly living in low-lying areas and near the Agusan River, were displaced, he said. A mine tunnel also caved in at Barangay Maibu in Butuan, killing two.

In Southern Leyte and Eastern Samar, flooding spawned by nonstop rains displaced at least 4,253 families or more than 20,000 people from eight towns. Over P3 million in agricultural crops and 410 hectares of farmlands were destroyed. It was the worst flooding in Eastern Visayas in 10 years.

Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon are expected to get an idea of the deluge of disasters taking place elsewhere as rains are expected this week. Although weathermen and civil defense officials are not expecting "Ondoy"-size flash floods, Luzon should not take any chances.

But sadly, civil defense officials and the national leadership have not evinced as much sense of urgency over the regional natural disasters and emergencies as a result of climate change and other unpredictable twists and turns of the weather. While the cold front is expected at this time of the year, the rains that have come along with it are not. Yet considering the experience of the past years, the lessons from the wages of climate change seem not to have been consolidated; they seem not to have impressed civil defense officials and policy planners. In many instances, even the least of early warning systems has not been implemented or observed. Southern Leyte Gov. Damian Mercado complained that despite the lessons of the Guisagun landslide tragedy in 2006, the people have chosen to ignore the warning.

The lack of urgency is damning considering that PAGASA has long warned about the capriciousness of the weather because of La Niña. In fact, the weather bureau believes that the abnormally heavy showers that northeastern Mindanao felt could have been aggravated by La Niña. It is now warning that the peak of La Niña in the country will be felt in the cold months of January and February, with the eastern portion of the country expected to be hardest hit by rains. Moreover, the projected rainfall over these areas is expected to be above normal. This is because cold air from northeast Asia coming into contact with warmer air in the tropical country will result in heavy rains.

Therefore, whether wet season or not, the country is not expected to be spared from the floods and landslides that it usually experiences during the rainy season. But despite the disasters of the not so recent past, the national and local leaderships appear to have the sense of urgency of a bland metronome. We have the perfect recipe for more disasters.

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## Words

**T**he supreme irony, if we are to believe the stories that have appeared in its wake, is that it began with words. Jared Lee Loughner, the 22-year-old, who opened fire at a political gathering in Tucson, Arizona, with an automatic rifle, killing six people, including a 9-year-old girl, was obsessed with them.

A couple of years before, he had apparently attended a rally of Democrat Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, his real target whom he put in critical condition with a bullet in the head, and asked, "What is government if words have no meaning?" By which he meant that government meant nothing if its words were just rhetoric and held no substance. He raised the same point again and again in his Internet rants, making it his mantra.

What can be more ironic than that he pressed his point about the importance of words by driving his message home with a hail of bullets?

The bloodbath has shocked America to its roots, and rightly so. Arguably Loughner is off his rockers and there is really no expecting sense from people who are off their rockers. Both the conservatives and liberals have pointed fingers at each other, saying he belongs to their camps. Loughner seems to be a little of both, albeit jacked up a hundred times to extremist lengths. On one hand he listed "The Communist Manifesto" and George Orwell's "Animal Farm" among his favorite reading fare, proclaiming him to be a leftist. On the other hand, he tried to enlist in the military, a weird thing to do for someone who saw government as the chief conspirator in a conspiracy by the elite to control the world, proclaiming him to be a rightist. Maybe he was neither. Maybe he was just an impressionable, confused, paranoid, hateful and ultimately murderous young man.

But thoughtful Americans are right to say that even if he were so, the toxic environment in which he lived had a great deal to do with what turned him from confused to murderous. If he were the gun, the toxic environment was the hand that pulled the trigger. Giffords herself left no doubt about whom

that hand belongs to.

At the height of the mid-term elections last year, which she won narrowly despite the challenge of the Tea Party, Giffords already complained about that party's alarmingly aggressive, indeed violent, rhetoric. Sarah Palin, in particular, spoke about "targeting" Barack Obama's people in certain areas of the US, and though she meant that politically she used the disturbing image of her targets in the crosshairs of a rifle. Giffords warned: "(She) has the crosshairs of a gunsight over our district. When people do that, they have got to realize there are consequences to that action."

How could she have known the consequences would be swift and catastrophic and that she would be among its first victims?

It's not just Palin, of course, who has adopted that rhetorical terrorism, though she has been one of its most strident exponents. The Tea Party and Fox Network have taken that tack, too, upping the ante on vitriolic rant over the last couple of years. It helped get Tea Party members elected in the last elections, but it has also produced a most dangerous, and truly toxic, environment.

It has made the US a pretty scary place to live in, threatening as it does to unleash a verbal civil war, if not a literal one. What's scary about the rhetoric is not just its level of vitriol but the ground it springs from. You see that particularly outside looking in. That's the same rhetoric that bred the Ku Klux Klan and the imperial venture that turned the erstwhile Spanish colonies into America's own. There's a great deal of racism in it, encapsulated in the phrase "defending the American way of life." Just half a century ago, that meant defending it from communists, civil rights troublemakers, and people like Barack Obama and whites sympathetic to them.

I suspect Obama's enemies were just waiting



### There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

for him to take a misstep—which he did with the health care plan, ill-timed in light of the onslaught of the recession—to bring the jingoistic defense-of-the-American-way-of-life line back to life, with its deathly exclusionary, indeed racist, overtones. You tear through the tangle or circumlocution of the new verbiage, and you might as well be in the pit of the Mississippi of the 1950s hearing people ranting about blacks getting too big for their

breeches and outsiders rousting things in the heartland, threatening the frontier, the land of the free and brave, the American way of life.

Words like that do have consequences. And America would do well, however that seems farthest from its horizons, to heed the lessons of Rwanda. As is well known by now, that country's media had a great deal to do with the bloodbath that took place there, echoing as they did relentlessly the Hutu line that the Tutsis were a threat to their very survival, a plague worthy of extinction. A notion like that broadcast openly and repeatedly in a society that knows little restraint will produce horrific consequences.

None of that is to say that America can possibly lapse to that kind of barbarity. It remains, despite Fox, the Tea Party, and the bigots in it, a true land of the free and brave. All of that is merely to say that when you couch bigotry in terms of the protection of a way of life, or at its most elemental level, in terms of self-preservation, it loosens restraint, it becomes easy to kill. There is at least the history of the lynching of blacks in the American South, and open hostility to those deemed sympathetic to them, justified along similar terms, to show it is not impervious to it. Ironically, if Loughner has proven anything, it is that words have meanings, it is that words do lead to actions.

Murderous words do lead to murderous deeds.

## Rizal as OFW

**H**SBC once used Jose Rizal as a product endorser because he had written to his family regarding exchange rates and recommended the Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp. The bank could not use Andres Bonifacio because there is a certification from HSBC Manila issued after the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896 that the Supremo did not have an account. HSBC has yet to use Emilio Aguinaldo in its local ad campaign because, like Rizal, he was a client, having deposited the funds from the Pact of Biak-na-Bato in HSBC when he and his men went to Hong Kong on exile in 1897. Aguinaldo insisted on using only the interest from the funds, but some people thought otherwise, insisting that the principal be divided among them and each goes his merry way. When Aguinaldo refused he was sued and had to hide in Singapore where he met the US consul who, beyond his authority, promised Aguinaldo the independence of his motherland in exchange for supporting the US in the Spanish-American War.

I had browsed the phone directory once before to see how many business establishments were named after our heroes. As expected, Rizal topped the list. Bonifacio and Aguinaldo were a far second and third, even if these surnames were more common than Rizal. There was, of course, an Aguinaldo Department Store that was to an earlier generation what Rustan's and SM are to us. It wasn't named after the President of the First Republic; the owner just shared the same surname.

Rizal's name or face are used as endorsements by: Rizal Cement, Rizal Matches and Rizal Commercial and Banking Corp. We literally have Rizal from womb (Rizal Hospital) to tomb (Funeraria Rizal). Some of my students even think that the man with the moustache on the tube of Pringle's potato crisps is Rizal!

Gregorio Zaide's textbook on Rizal utilizes a

pedagogical tool to emphasize his many talents. Known by students forced to memorize it as the "Rizal A to Z," every letter in the alphabet describes Rizal. For example: A for agronomist, B for botanist, M for magician, and so on. Other Filipino heroes and heroines are just as talented and noble but pale in comparison as their attributes range from A to B.

As each generation writes its own history, I have the Zaide A-Z change with reference to Rizal being an OFW or overseas Filipino worker because he set up an eye clinic in Hong Kong. Some go as far as calling Rizal the First OFW, which isn't quite accurate because there were many Filipinos who worked on the Manila-Acapulco Galleon Trade centuries before Rizal's parents were born.

The OFW connection is quite relevant because Rizal's letters to his family and friends reflect homesickness, longing and self-sacrifice that many OFWs endure today. One letter stands out because it comments on children born to OFWs who will be lost to the Philippines. Written in Paris on May 2, 1889, Rizal congratulated Fernando Canon on the christening of his son:

"I truly share your joy, I congratulate you and your wife, I felicitate Spain, because I am sure that Fernandito can only fall heir to the noble qualities and good dispositions of his parents, and such citizens do not abound everywhere. Nevertheless, I cannot refrain from expressing to you a certain melancholy upon thinking that this new being in whose veins Filipino blood runs and who will be educated with so much care will afterwards be a lost member for a country that is in need of men.

"I have the same sentiment when I hold in my



### Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

arms the son of Luna and Pacita Pardo; he is one French more and one Filipino less.

"It is true that the Europeans who go to the Philippines give us their children, but what children, what education, and what love they have for the country! But no one is to blame for this except the country itself that reserves for its inhabitants many things besides malaria, earthquakes and typhoons.

"In the great whirlwind of the world, let each atom look for the

best nucleus, let it rise when and where it can! The only thing you can do is to educate well your child and inculcate in him noble and honorable sentiments so that one day, if good luck sends him to the Philippines, he may not be one of so many who exploit the ignorance of the unfortunate, and be one more tyrant to the brothers of his father. All honorable men of the world are compatriots.

"May you and your family be happy, may your son be the mirror which reflects your good qualities, and if the Philippines loses a son, at least humanity may gain one.

"May the lechon and dinuguan sacrificed at his baptism influence somewhat his tender being like the atmosphere of a distant homeland, like the perfumes of tropical flowers." (See that: from the dinuguan to the perfume of the flowers!!)"

I know of couples who fly to the United States so that their children will be born there to gain U.S. citizenship. I understand their wish for their children's future and remember Rizal's bittersweet sentiment for each child that is one American more and one Filipino less.

Comments are welcome in my Face Book Fan Page.



# Focus

Two communist New People Army rebels man their post beside a creek during the celebration of the 42nd anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010 at Mt. Diwata in southern Philippines.

## Poverty breeds new generation of Filipino rebels

By JIM GOMEZ  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**MOUNT DIWATA, Philippines (AP)**—Too poor to afford school beyond fourth grade in the southern Philippines, 19-year-old Johnny Buyo walked away from home six months ago to join the communist rebellion—one of Asia's longest-running. He was handed a rusty M16 rifle, which he vowed to keep for life.

The teenager recently gathered with an older generation of battle-hardened veterans in their 60s for a celebration marking the 42nd anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines, whose insurgency withstood decades of crackdown by five Philippine presidents.

"It's scary at first but later, you gain confidence when you think that you're fighting for the people," said Buyo, the rifle slung on his tiny frame.

Amid a Christmas cease-fire and looming peace talks with President Benigno Aquino III's new government, about 80 Maoist guerrillas armed with rifles and grenade launchers marched in a remote rice-farming village in the foothills of Mount Diwata in southern Surigao del Sur province as more than 2,000 villagers, relatives and sympathizers cheered.

Persistent poverty in the Philippines' southern region fuels popular support for the movement, inspiring new generations to join even as Cold War communist insurgencies fade into memory across much of the rest of the world.

It has been 38 years since Jorge Madlos, then a student activist, quit university and went underground after then-Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972. Now 62, the prominent rebel spokesman—distinguished by his trademark Mao-style cap and goatee—says only one thing can make him leave his comrades.

"Our retirement comes in death," Madlos said.

At Sunday's ceremony, smiling guerrillas handed out 2011 calendars, red pins and packs of roasted pork and rice. They belted out nationalist songs on a stage in a rice field festooned with the hammer and sickle communist symbol. Relatives and friends used the occasion for reunions with rebels, including a mother who said she has



Some members of the communist New Peoples Army have their faces painted to hide their identity during the celebration of the 42nd anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010 at Mt. Diwata in southern Philippines.

not seen her son since he joined the guerrillas 10 years ago.

The chaotic scene under a broiling noontime sun both depicted the rebels' resiliency and constraints.

Army troops kept watch less than a mile (two kilometers) away, stopping vehicles and writing down the names of truckloads of people entering a narrow dirt road leading to the rebel event. Undeterred, they told soldiers they were going to a "peace forum."

Such a rare display of defiance and force by the rebels is played down by the military, which said that battle set-

backs, surrenders, infighting and loss of foreign support have reduced the guerrilla force to less than 5,000 from a peak of 25,000 in the 1980s.

Not strong enough to face military tanks and aircraft, the rebels now rely on hit-and-run ambushes. They operate a shadow government in areas under their influence, dispensing justice including trials—and sometimes executions—of erring policemen and village officials. The rebels also collect "revolutionary taxes"—and punish business establishments refusing to pay.

With the emergence of a popular, reformist Philippine president who has

started to tackle poverty, the rebels now risk becoming irrelevant, government chief negotiator Alexander Padilla said last week. He cited the example of some former rebels from the same force and other hard-line communists who took their cause to Congress as elected representatives.

Padilla said he and rebel representatives have agreed to resume talks in February in Norway, which has facilitated the peace process. The rebels walked away from peace talks brokered by Norway in 2004, suspecting then-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's

government of instigating their inclusion on U.S. and EU terrorist lists.

Padilla credited the apparent progress to this year's landslide election victory of Aquino, the son of revered democracy icons. Aquino has begun grappling with pervasive government corruption and human rights violations blamed on state security forces that have helped fuel the insurgency, Padilla said.

But the guerrillas said that Aquino still has a lot to prove.

"Despite the peace talks, we will go on with the revolt," Madlos told journalists in this farming village about 530 miles (860 kilometers) southeast of Manila.

"Aquino is not popular in our bases," he said.

Some residents disagreed, even though there was little doubt about their loyalty in this rebel stronghold where houses are bedecked with paper streamers praising the revolution and New People's Army.

"I voted for Noynoy. He's kind," said 44-year-old housewife Lita Larowa, using Aquino's popular nickname.

But she said the rebels were her "heroes, for fighting for the legions of poor people like me." She refused to call them terrorists.

Another young rebel, who gave her name as Ka (Comrade) Irene, wished Aquino would fulfill his campaign promises to improve lives of the poor.

She said her rebellion was justified because massive poverty was still afflicting the country.

"I don't have dreams anymore," the 21-year-old, ponytailed rebel said, when asked if she planned to leave the mountains someday and rejoin her family.

Madlos said he was happy seeing a new generation take up the fight as veterans like him begin to fade.

"They ensure that this revolution will continue," he said.



YoungStyle

New guidelines would make school lunches healthier

By MARY CLARE JALONICK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—School cafeterias would have to hold the fries—and serve kids more whole grains, fruits and vegetables—under the government’s plans for the first major nutritional overhaul of students’ meals in 15 years.

The Agriculture Department proposal announced Thursday applies to lunches subsidized by the federal government. The guidelines would require schools to cut sodium in those meals by more than half, use more whole grains and serve low-fat milk. They also would

limit kids to only one cup of starchy vegetables a week, so schools couldn’t offer french fries every day. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said the new standards could affect more than 32 million children and are crucial because kids can consume as

Healthier school lunches

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed changes to school meal standards, adding more fruits, vegetables, whole grains and fat-free and low-fat milk in an effort to combat childhood obesity. Sample meals that illustrate the changes:

Current menu	Proposed menu
Cheese pizza	Whole wheat cheese pizza
Tater tots	Baked sweet potato fries
Ketchup	Low-fat ranch dip
Canned pineapple	Raw grape tomatoes, applesauce
Low-fat chocolate milk	Low-fat milk

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, MCT Photo Service Graphic: Pat Carr © 2011 MCT



In this Nov. 19, 2007, file photo, a student puts apple slices on his tray during lunch at Central High School in St. Paul, Minn.

much as half of their daily calories in school. “The United States is facing an obesity epidemic and the crisis of poor diets threatens the future of our children and our nation,” Vilsack said Thursday. While many schools are improving meals already, others are still serving children meals high in fat, salt and calories. The new guidelines are based on 2009 recommendations by the Institute of Medicine, the health

arm of the National Academy of Sciences. The announcement comes just a few weeks after President Barack Obama signed into law a child nutrition bill that will help schools pay for the healthier foods, which often are more expensive. The subsidized meals that would fall under the guidelines

proposed this week are served as free and low-cost meals to low-income children and long have been subject to government nutrition standards. The new law for the first time will extend nutrition standards to other foods sold in schools that aren’t subsidized by the federal government, including “a la carte” foods on the lunch line and

**ON THE NET**  
Before and after school lunch menu: <http://www.usda.gov/documents/cnr-chart.pdf>

- snacks in vending machines. Those standards, while expected to be similar, will be written separately.
- The announcement is a proposal, and it could be several years before the rules require schools to make changes.
- The new USDA guidelines would:
- Establish the first calorie limits for school meals.
  - Gradually reduce the amount of sodium in the meals over 10 years, with the eventual goal of reducing sodium by more than half.
  - Ban most trans fats.
  - Require more servings of fruits and vegetables.
  - Require all milk served to be low fat or nonfat, and require all flavored milks to be nonfat.
  - Incrementally increase the amount of whole grains required, eventually requiring most grains to be whole grains.
  - Improve school breakfasts by requiring schools to serve a grain and a protein, instead of one or the other.

Vilsack said the reduction in sodium will be gradual so school children can get used to less salty foods. He said the government wants the meals to be appealing so children will eat them.

“We are looking at ways these meals can be attractive and also be tasty,” he said.

Some school groups have criticized efforts to make meals healthier, saying it will be hard for already-stretched schools to pay for the new requirements. Some conservatives, including former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, have said that telling children what to eat is a case of government overreach.

Vilsack says he understands the new standards may pose some challenges for school districts, but he believes they are necessary. He compares obesity and related diseases like diabetes to a truck barreling toward a child, and the new guidelines to a parent teaching that child to look both ways before crossing the street.

“You want your kid to be able to walk across the street without getting hit,” he says.

According to the USDA, about a third of children 6 to 19 years old are overweight or obese, and the number of obese children has tripled in the past few decades.

The Agriculture Department also is planning to release new dietary guidelines for the general public, possibly as soon as this month. Those guidelines, revised every five years, are similarly expected to encourage less sodium consumption and more grains, fruits and vegetables.

Group announces top children’s books awards

By HILLEL ITALIE  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Clare Vanderpool’s “Moon Over Manifest,” a young girl’s magical and mysterious adventures in a small town in 1936, won the John Newbery Medal for the “most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.”

“A Sick Day for Amos McGee,” the gentle story of an elderly zookeeper and the animals who visit him at home when he’s too unwell to work, received the Randolph Caldecott Medal for best children’s picture book. “A Sick Day” was illustrated by Erin E. Stead and written by her husband Philip C. Stead, also the author of “Creamed Tuna Fish & Peas On Toast.”

The awards, the highest honors in children’s literature, were announced midday Monday by the American Library Association. The books are the debuts of both Vanderpool and Erin Stead and had entered the top 100 on Amazon.com’s best-seller list by later Monday afternoon.

“I was aware of the Newbery enough that when I taught some creative writing classes at my

children’s elementary school, I used to tell the kids, ‘Look for this gold medal on the front of the book,’” said Vanderpool, 46, a native of Wichita, Kan.

Vanderpool began the book in 2001, needed five to six years to finish and an additional three to four years to find a publisher, the Random House Inc. imprint Delacorte Press. A mother of four, she still lives in Wichita and had long been curious about the role of place in people’s lives. The story is set in Kansas and the narrator, Abilene Tucker, has been sent off by her father to Manifest, a fictionalized version of Frontenac, where Vanderpool’s maternal grandparents lived.

“I’ve spent much of my life in one neighborhood in Wichita and I wondered what it would be like for a girl during the Depression who had never been in one place very long,” she said.

Stead, 28, was a design assistant at HarperCollins and an employee at Books of Wonder, a popular children’s store in New York. Now living with her husband in Ann Arbor, Mich., she says Philip Stead had told her he wrote “Amos McGee” with her in mind.

“I knew it was a story for me from the moment I read it and so

I had a healthy amount of intimidation,” she said. “I love drawing animals and I love drawing people and I love drawing the emotional connection between animals and people.”

Tomie dePaolo, whose many books include such favorites as “Strega Nona” and “26 Fairmont Avenue,” received the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award for his “substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children.” Another lifetime achievement prize, the Margaret A. Edwards Award, was given to British fantasy novelist Terry Pratchett.

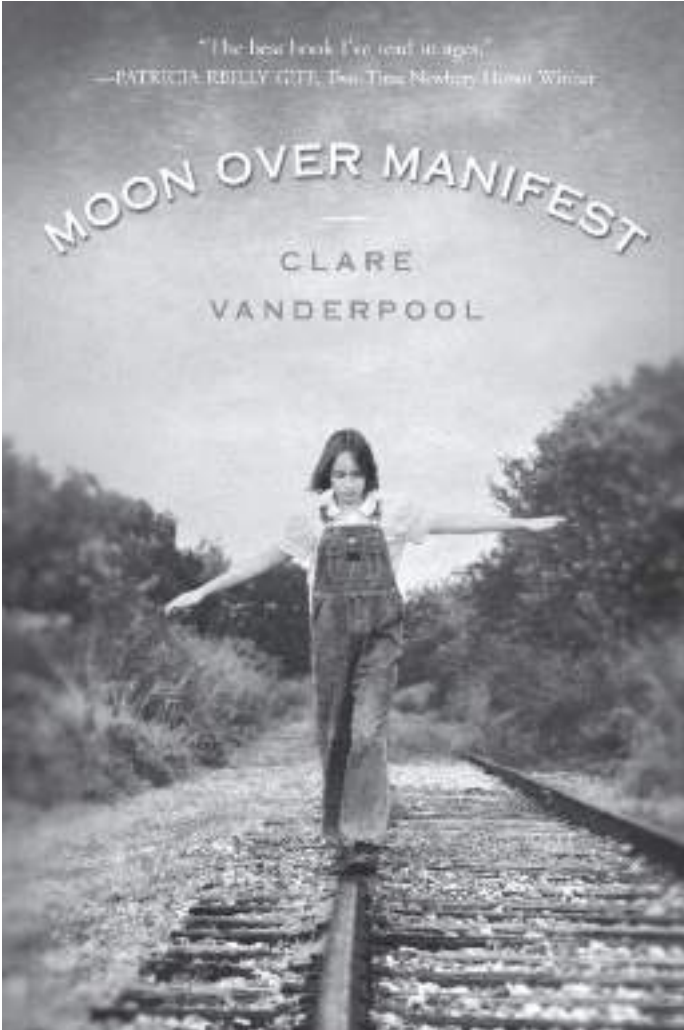
“The Dreamer,” by Pam Munoz Ryan, won the Pura Belpre Author Award for the writer “whose children’s books best portray, affirm and celebrate the Latino cultural experience.” The Belpre prize for illustration went to Eric Velasquez for “Grandma’s Gift,” which he also wrote.

Paolo Bacigalup’s “Ship Breaker” won the Michael L. Printz Award for “excellence in literature written for young adults.” The Coretta Scott King award, given to an African American author of “outstanding books for children and young adults,” went to Rita Williams-Garcia’s “One Crazy Summer

“Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave,” illustrated by Bryan Collier and written by Laban Carrick Hill, won the King prize for best illustrated work.

“Almost Perfect,” written

by Brian Katcher, received the Stonewall Children’s and Young Adult Literature Award for “exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered experience.”









# Life & Style

## Tiger mom's memoir meets ferocious roar

By LEANNE ITALIE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A new memoir of badass parenting, Chinese style, from a self-proclaimed tiger mother has unleashed a ferocious roar.

Fallout was swift for Yale law professor Amy Chua after she published a stark essay in *The Wall Street Journal* describing the harsh words and heavy-handed methods she used with her two teen daughters.

Her *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* shot to No. 6 in the Amazon sales rankings Tuesday, the day it was released, likely fueled by angry buzz over the weekend column and a headline Chua had nothing to do with: "Why Chi-

nese Mothers are Superior."

Adult offspring of Asian and Asian American immigrants are weighing in on Chua's provocative description of Eastern-style parenting: No sleepovers or playdates. Grueling rote academics. Hours of piano and violin practice. Slurs like "lazy" and "garbage," and threats to burn stuffed animals when things don't go mom's way.

Some see truth and a borderline abuser. Others see dangerous stereotype with the potential to feed China haters and xenophobes. Still others publicly thanked their

moms online for similar, though less extreme, methods.

Few had read the book themselves, missing out on more facetious nuances and details on Chua's journey to a softer approach with Sophia, 18, and Louisa, nicknamed Lulu and about to celebrate her 15th birthday with—

gasp—a sleepover party.

"It's been tough on my kids," Chua said Wednesday. "They want to speak out over the thing that has hurt me the most, when people say, 'Oh, doesn't that kind of strict parenting produce

meek robots?' My daughters could not be further from meek robots. They're confident, funny, kind, generous, with very big personalities, and they're always calling my bluff."

Chua, 48 and the daughter of Filipino immigrants of Chinese descent, insists her tone in the book is self-deprecating. It's a point she considers lost in the blogosphere, including heat from moms employing current Western philosophies she doesn't consider better or worse, but more lax and undisciplined. "My first reaction was, 'Is this a joke?' I kept waiting for the punch line," said Frances Kai-Hwa Wang, 44, a second-generation Chinese American and mother of four in Ann Arbor, Mich. She had parents with high expectations but none of Chua's histrionics. "Her methods are so crude. The humiliations and the shaming. The kids will hear that voice in their heads for the rest of their lives."

Christine Lu's memories of her tiger mom growing up in Los Angeles are laden with sorrow. Mom's ramrod tactics failed on her ("life at home used to be horrible") but they worked on her older sister. She hit 28 and spiraled into a depression that led to her suicide after the startup where she worked fizzled.

"She graduated from Harvard with an MBA. That was the first time she had ever experienced failure," said the 34-year-old Lu, who was born in Taiwan and moved to LA with her parents and three siblings at age 2.

She stopped short of blaming her mom, adding: "It's the culture. Amy is a product of the culture, too."

It's a book of extreme parenting, for sure, a memoir and not a how-to manual, Chua cautions. Her parenting choices were conscious and reflect her upbringing: No TV, no pets, no computer games, no grades under A, no parts in school plays, no complaints about not having parts in school plays, no choice of extracurricular activities, nothing less than top spots in any school class except gym and drama, no musical instruments except piano or violin.

When Lulu had trouble with a tricky piece of music, Chua

denied her bathroom breaks and threatened to ship off her dollhouse to the Salvation Army, piece by piece, until she got it right—which she did with pride, mom at her side.

When she pushed back at age 13, rejecting the violin, mom allowed for tennis instead, keeping a keen eye on her game.

Betty Ming Liu, 54, grew up in New York City's Chinatown, the oldest of two girls of Chinese immigrants with high expectations and abusive tactics.

"This is a topic so close to my heart," she said. "It's frightening to see that Amy Chua is still doing it. She's young. She's educated. She's American born. She's not an immigrant and for her to perpetuate this...is frightening."

As a young adult, Chua said she rebelled in her own way. She married a white, American Orthodox Jew after hearing from her dad: "You'll marry a non-Chinese over my dead body." Now my dad and my husband are the best of friends.

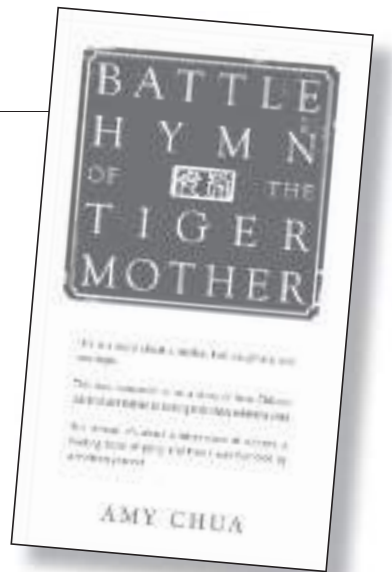
Liu and Chua alike acknowledge that the tiger mom parenting approach isn't uniquely Chinese, "but we've perfected it," Liu said. "I got straight Ds in college. That was my only power over my father."

Growing up in California's Marin County, Tony Hsieh's parents forced him to play four instruments. He'd sometimes cheat on practices by recording previous turns at the piano or violin and playing them back while his parents slept. Practice exams for the SAT began in middle school.

Hsieh graduated from Harvard in 1995, co-founded an Internet ad network sold to Microsoft and is now CEO of the online shoe retailer Zappos. He published a memoir of his road to success, "Delivering Happiness," last year. What he didn't do was become a doctor, a top prize to his parents.

"For myself personally, I think I would have benefited from a less strict parenting style, because a big part of being an entrepreneur is about being creative, thinking outside the box, defying conventional wisdom, taking risks, which runs counter to the values of many Asian parents," he said.

Shay Fan, 26, in San Francis-



co, didn't rip up sheets of music like one of Chua's girls, but she once protested piano by playing with her feet and paid for it with a fierce spanking.

"I understand her motives," she said of Chua. "Is there a limit to what parents should do? Absolutely. Chua's method of parenting worked for her children, lucky for her, but you have to take things on a case by case basis. ... Overall, I'm glad that my mom taught me to be diligent and introspective."

And Wendy Lin, 55, who remembers yelling and screaming over her perceived laziness as a child, appreciates Chua's resolve to dive into the trenches with her kids.

"She was with them every inch of the way. I thought that was really touching," said Lin, who is parenting her 15-year-old son more gently in Great Neck, N.Y. "A lot of mothers would just shout from the next room."

Chua stands by much of her tiger mom ways: intense attention to academics, for instance. And she has some clarifications: Her girls HAVE had sleepovers and playdates, but they were few and far between.

Regrets? "I wish I hadn't lost my temper," she said. "I wish I hadn't been harsh. I wish I would have let them have more freedom."

Chua considers it a luxury to get to make those choices. Lin understands that in terms of her own parents.

"As an immigrant parent, there aren't a lot of tools you can give your children. You're very powerless in the system. You're very powerless when it comes to language," Lin said. "One of the things that you can do is make sure your kids have a good education and make sure they get into a good school, and after that you can finally rest and take a breath."

### DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

*In Loving Memory of Our Dearly Beloved*

†**AGNES INOKE WENIO**

(March 07, 1951—January 09, 2011)

Was called to her eternal rest on Sunday, January 09, 2010

At the age of 59 Years.

*In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her::*

**Grandparents:** †Ignacio Malaghar Seman &  
†Dolores Saralu Rogopes

**Father:** †Rainbo Inoke

**Brother:** †Francisco Seman Inoke

**Sisters:** †Maria Inoke Joseph, †Lucy Seman Inoke

**Nephew:** †Iuanis Moses Inoke

*Her love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of her:*

**Husband:** Elias M Wenio

**Daughters:** Elihsa W. /Alfred R. Flores, Elsihda W. /Primo P. Pelep

**Sons:** Nelson/Emy Wenio, Glen/Jennifer Wenio

**Reared Sons & Spouses:** Johnny S./Rosa T. Aldan, Zoro/Rose Donre,  
Wilbert/Jennifer Rospel

**Brothers, Sisters & In Laws:**

**Daniel/Dores Thomson** (Bulgen Thomson)

†**Francisco/Elsihter Inoke** (Iuanis Inoke, Francis, Franklin, Ferdinan,  
Jasleen, Franky, Franklyn, Berleen)

**Frederick/Konseph Inoke** (Suani, Nelson, Adela, Mayleen, Welson)

†**Maria/Konster Joseph** (Bill/Carleen Joseph, Martha/Joe Castro)

**Dimos/Berlie Inoke** (Dickson, Berson, Marlyn)

**Julie Aaron** (Kinoleen, Vay Mary Jane)

**Benjamin/Clarissa Inoke** (Patrick, Keia)

**Dolores Inoke & Inosens Yamada**

**Lorihda Inoke & Vicente Pelep** (Laverni)

*She will be truly missed by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, & godchildrens.*

Daily Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Santa Soledad Mission Parish Church in Kagman followed by Holy Rosary at 7:00 p.m.

On Monday, January 17, 2011 at 7:30am, her remains will be escorted from CHC Chapel to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by the Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am. Immediately followed by interment services at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Please join us in prayers**

**Elias Wenio, Children  
& Family**

## 'Spider-Man' delays Broadway opening for 3rd time

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The Broadway production of "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark," plagued by financial problems and injuries including a stunt man's 30-foot fall after his safety harness malfunctioned, has delayed its opening night again, this time for more than a month.

Producers said Thursday they need until March 15 to fine-tune aspects of the \$65 million show, including a new ending, before allowing critics to weigh in. Lead producer Michael Kohl promised this is "the final postponement."

The show—the dreamchild of "Lion King" director Julie Taymor with music by U2's Bono and The Edge—hasn't been hurt at the box office by the raft of injuries, cancellations, the defection of a lead actress, in-show delays and postponements.

The new opening delay doesn't really hurt the musical, even if it means setting a new record for the show with the most preview performances. Although producers are charging full price for tickets, the musical is still selling out the

1,930-seat Foxwoods Theatre in Times Square almost every night, and last week the web-slinger tale took the week's box-office crown from the Oz musical "Wicked."

In a statement, Taymor said: "We are so grateful for the enthusiastic audiences who have been coming to see 'Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark' and we are dedicated to giving them the very best show we can."

Once a show officially opens, it is considered frozen and no more tinkering is allowed.



# Backstreet Boy AJ McLean heading back to rehab



AP  
In this May 24, 2010 file photo, singer A. J. McLean of the Backstreet Boys performs on CBS News' "The Early Show" in New York.

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The Backstreet Boys' A.J. McLean is heading back to rehab.

The singer issued a statement Thursday confirming that he had checked himself into a rehabilitation center, citing "personal reasons."

McLean says he knows this

year is going to be busy for the Backstreet Boys, so he wanted to be "healthy and perform and sing for people at my very best and happiest."

The Backstreet Boys and New Kids on the Block are set to tour together this summer. McLean says the tour won't be affected.

Last year ended on a high note as the two boy bands performed in Times Square as part of "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve With Ryan Seacrest 2011."

This will be McLean's third stint in rehab. He sought treatment in 2001 and 2002. He turned 33 last week.

## Mel Gibson's next film to debut at Texas festival

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Mel Gibson's return to the big screen will begin in March at the South by Southwest festival. Organizers of the Austin, Texas, multimedia entertainment festival announced Thursday that "The Beaver" will be one of five films that will have their international premieres at the event, commonly known as SXSW. Jodie Foster directed and co-stars in

"The Beaver," which features Gibson as a troubled family man trying to cope with help from an unusual friend—a beaver puppet he wears on his hand.

The film will be shown a week before a limited public release on March 23, with an expansion to more theaters planned on April 8.

Its release had been delayed as Gibson dealt with bad publicity

from a public breakup with his ex-girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva. Their split has spawned a bitter custody fight over their infant daughter, as well as investigations into claims of physical abuse by the actor-director and extortion by the Russian musician.

Los Angeles prosecutors are still mulling whether to press charges against either Gibson or Grigorieva.

## Lawyer: Rapper 'relieved' to admit '93 NY shooting

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Rapper G. Dep is facing a murder charge after walking into a police station to confess to a long-cold case, but he isn't regretful—he's relieved, his lawyer says.

"He had been haunted by this," attorney Anthony L. Ricco said Thursday after the rapper pleaded not guilty to charges including murder and manslaughter in the 1993 shooting of John Henkel. Defendants generally plead not guilty early in their cases, even if they've confessed, to allow evidence-gathering, legal arguments and any plea negotiations to proceed.

G. Dep, who had hits with "Special Delivery" and "Let's Get It" and helped popularize a loose-limbed dance called the Harlem shake in the early 2000s, turned up at a police precinct last month to say he'd shot someone as a teenager during a robbery in East Harlem. Detectives matched details he provided to the slaying of Henkel, who was shot three times in the chest outside an apartment complex. The rapper, now 36, has said he didn't know the victim died until police told him so.



### A STAR FOR COLLIN

British actor Colin Firth, who stars in "The King's Speech," waves during dedication ceremonies for his new star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011. The British actor unveiled his sidewalk shrine Thursday in front of the Pig 'N Whistle pub on Hollywood Boulevard. It's the 2,429th star dedicated on the avenue of dreams. The 50-year-old Firth was a best actor nominee at the Oscars, Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild Awards last year for his performance in "A Single Man." Firth's movie credits include "Bridget Jones's Diary," "Shakespeare in Love," "The English Patient" and "Mama Mia!"

## Paris Hilton to star in Oxygen reality TV show

**PASADENA, Calif.** (AP)—Paris Hilton's life will be on display in a new Oxygen TV reality TV series.

The cable channel said Thursday that "The World According to Paris" will debut this spring.



Hilton

An Oxygen executive described the series as "for real," detailing the "highs" of the socialite turning 30 and her relationships.

Programming executive Amy Introcasso-Davis says it will also focus on the "lows" of her forced community service.

Last September, Hilton pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor charges, including drug possession, stemming from an August 2010 arrest on the Las Vegas Strip.

## Teen mom hides full story from her infuriated mother

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 17-year-old mother. I am afraid to tell my mom that I have been speaking to my son's father, "Jeremy," who is also 17. She doesn't like him because when she found out I was pregnant, my best friend told her about the abuse I suffered from Jeremy.

Mom is scared he will abuse my son, and, being a teen, he will up and leave me when he finds the right person to be with. He has missed a year of the baby's life and so has his family.

Jeremy's parents want to meet their grandson. It's difficult to talk to Mom because of the way she feels about the family. She thinks they haven't tried to see my son, but in reality they're leaving it up to me to set up. How can I get my mom to be less angry about the situation?

TEEN MOM IN GRAND RAPIDS

**DEAR TEEN MOM:** You may be only 17, but because you are now a mother you are going to have to grow up—fast. Your mother has your best interests at heart, and also her grandchild's. You didn't say whether Jeremy was physically or emotionally abusive, but both are bad. And those are habits he may have learned from his parents. If he dropped out of your life for an entire year, the odds are high that he'll disappear again. So don't count on him for anything.

I am urging you to be completely honest with your mother. Sneaking around is childish. TELL her that the reason Jeremy's parents haven't seen the baby is they left it up to you to arrange, and you were afraid to tell her. It's honest and better than letting them take the rap for your unwillingness to speak up. It may make her less angry about the situation and more willing to compromise.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently became engaged to a man I have been with for six years. We're planning a wedding this year.

I lost my dad six years ago. My stepmom has been in my life since I was 3. (I am now 33.) When I asked her if she would be willing to contribute to the wedding in place of Dad, she refused! According to her, Dad did not discuss this with her prior to his death.

What is proper protocol here? Was I out of line to ask if she'd be willing to contribute? I feel like the odd child out because my dad and stepmom contributed to my sister's wedding. Considering how long she has been in my life, this was a shock to me. What do you think, Abby?

FEELING ABANDONED IN MONTANA

**DEAR FEELING ABANDONED:** Many people have the mistaken impression that a bride's parents are required to pay for or contribute to her wedding. It's not true. A wedding is a gift, and while it would have been nice of your stepmother to have agreed to give you money for yours, no rule of protocol dictates that she had to.

At 33, you and your fiancé should be able to finance your own wedding—and that's what you should do, without feeling abandoned. Many couples these days do exactly that.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My former boss told me that my numerous suggestions, voluminous descriptions for systems improvements, suggestions for work outside the office, extra reports and documentation, large number of phone calls and multitudinous e-mails came across as intractable, intolerant and superfluous. Could he have been right?

T.K. IN RALEIGH, N.C.

**DEAR T.K.:** In a word: yes.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### 4 charged in death of onetime Lauryn Hill bassist

**SANTA ROSA, Calif.** (AP)—California authorities have arrested four men in the fatal drive-by shooting of a bassist who once toured with singer Lauryn Hill. Raul Vega, Hector Barragan, Christopher Mancinas and Javier Carreon-Lopez were taken into custody on charges including murder on Wednesday, the anniversary of Dewey Tucker's death. They pleaded not guilty Thursday. Prosecutors say the 24-year-old Northern California musician was killed in a case of mistaken identity. They say the men mistook him for a rival gang member. Tucker was found dead in his car on Interstate 80 near Hercules on Jan. 10, 2010. Vega also pleaded not guilty to a separate fatal stabbing at a Santa Rosa elementary school over the weekend.

### Ayla Brown—senator's kid, ex-Idol—goes country

**BOSTON** (AP)—Ayla Brown is going country. The former "American Idol" contestant is moving to Nashville, Tenn., to test her talents as a country singer. Her father, Sen. Scott Brown of Massachusetts, told The Associated Press this week that music producers in Nashville "want to work

with her." Ayla Brown's website says she's spending the coming week writing and recording at Starstruck Studios. It says she's moving there in early February. The senator says he supports all his daughters' activities "as long as they're safe and healthy and using their heads." Ayla Brown was a basketball star at Boston College. She now is a special correspondent for "The Early Show" on CBS. She recently returned from entertaining U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

### 'Boston' Rob and Russell returning to 'Survivor'

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—"Boston" Rob Mariano and Russell Hantz are getting another shot at \$1 million. The veteran "Survivor" bad boys will join 16 new contestants for the 22nd edition of the CBS reality TV competition, the network announced Thursday. It will be the fourth time competing for Mariano ("Marquesas," "All-Stars," "Heroes vs. Villains") and the third for Hantz ("Samoa," "Heroes vs. Villains"). Neither has ever won the \$1 million grand prize. Mariano and Hantz famously sparred as members of the villains tribe on the 20th season, with Hantz ultimately besting Mariano by forming an alliance that blindsided the veteran player with his surprise dismissal. Mariano and Hantz

will join separate tribes this time, CBS said. Other castaways include former NFL players, an Iraq war veteran and a cheerleader. "Survivor: Redemption Island" is scheduled to premiere Feb. 16.

### Ex-'30 Rock' accountant accused of forging checks

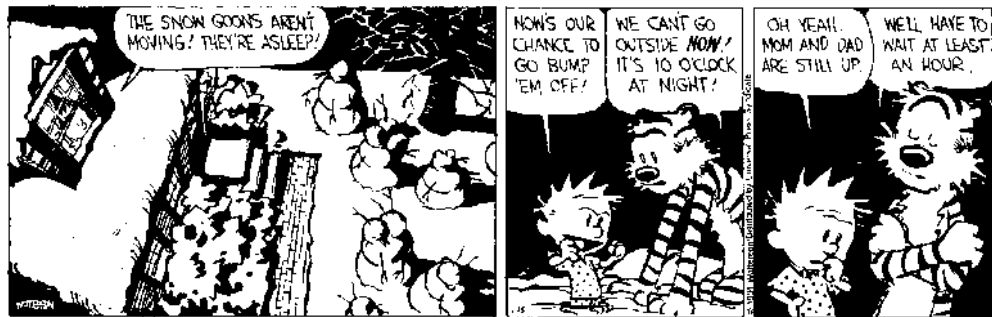
**NEW YORK** (AP)—New York prosecutors say a former production accountant for "30 Rock" has been charged with embezzling more than \$13,600 from NBC. Thirty-five-year-old Matthew Rudolph was awaiting arraignment in criminal court in Queens on 22 counts of grand larceny, falsifying business records and possession of a forged instrument. His attorney, Richard Roth, says his client "categorically denies" the allegations. Rudolph worked on season four of the popular TV show starring Tina Fey and Alec Baldwin. It is filmed at Silvercup Studios in Queens. He was fired last spring after the allegations surfaced. Queens District Attorney Richard Brown says Rudolph forged checks worth \$6,000 and expense reports for his NBC credit card that totaled \$7,662.55 last year. NBC Universal didn't comment Thursday. The network turned over the information to the district attorney's office.



# Pastimes

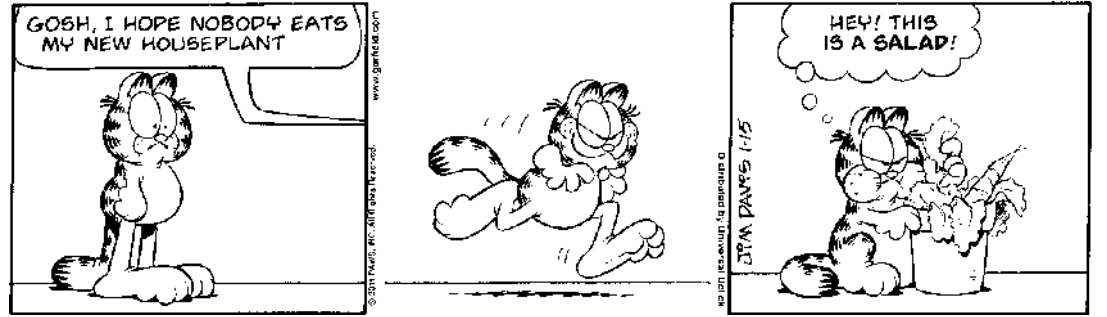
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



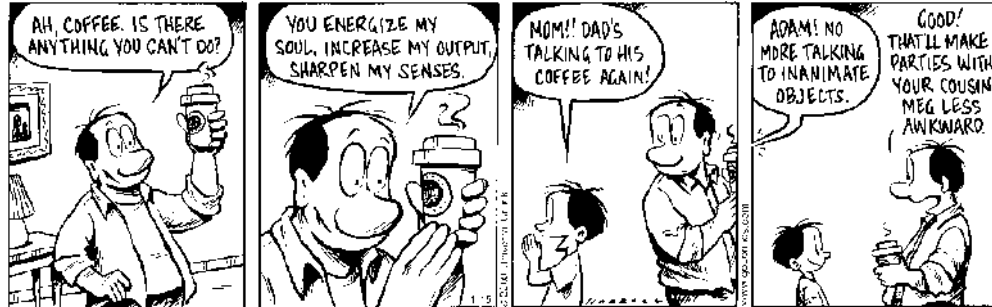
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



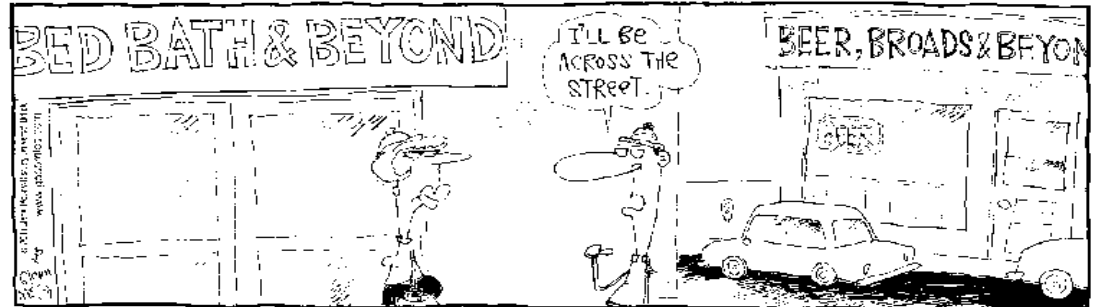
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Poker variety

5 Tucson's county

9 In olden times

12 Kachina worshiper

13 Byway

14 Watch chain

15 Cupid's alias

16 Has

17 Sailor's assent

18 Harmonization

19 Singer Cole

20 Cafeteria carrier

21 Moonshine vessel

23 Work with dozen

25 Hercule's

28 Horrify

32 "Oh, woe"

33 Sleep problem

34 Sell

36 Brief

37 44-Across student

38 Chick's mama

**DOWN**

2 British Conservative

3 Fairy-tale

4 WKRP staffer

5 Times

6 "The Music Man"

7 Site of Romeo's exile

8 Billboards

9 Somewhere out there

10 Maja painter

11 Follow orders

20 Method of Japanese cuisine

22 "Family Matters" nerd

24 "The final frontier"

25 Felon's flight

26 Carte

27 Prohibit

29 Pundit

30 Say it's OK

31 Non-clerical

35 Steering lever

36 Tailor's tool

39 California wine valley

40 Eager, plus

41 Presidential power

43 Calendar quota

45 Not "fer"

46 Give temporarily

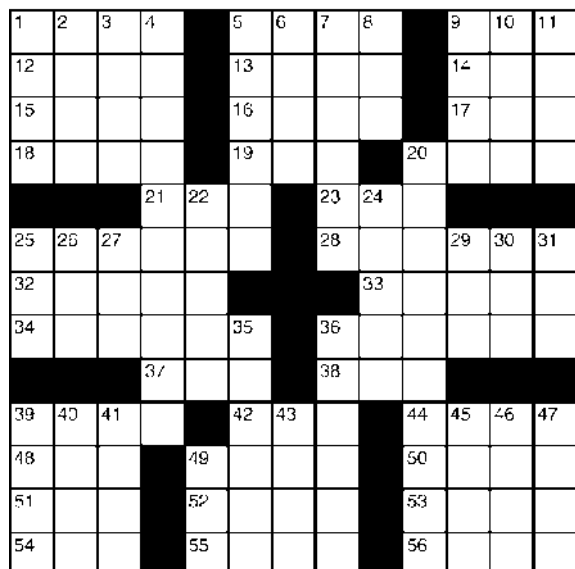
47 Pushing the envelope

49 Grand —, N.S.

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

O	W	E	V	O	L	I	B	I	S
H	E	N	O	R	E	C	N	O	T
M	F	G	A	W	A	T	T	I	F
A	B	E	L	L	C	O	M	S	
A	N	G	E	L	H	E	I	R	
D	O	I	T	V	E	G	A	N	I
A	N	N	C	I	G	A	R	S	O
R	F	G	A	R	D	F	M	A	R
F	O	A	L	R	E	B	E	L	
A	S	K	E	W	A	O	N	E	
R	H	E	A	D	E	C	A	U	L
T	E	R	O	P	E	C	L	E	A
S	A	N	D	G	I	S	H	A	I

Yesterday's answer 1-15



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Regina King, 40; Chad Lowe, 43; Andrea Martin, 64; Margaret O'Brien, 74

**Happy Birthday:** Focus on maintaining your assets and building slowly, so you can be sure of your future and what you are trying to accomplish. Now is the time to strive for stability and to secure your personal and professional position. You don't have to make a big splash; start small and success will come your way. Your numbers are 8, 11, 25, 27, 30, 36, 48

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Focus on the people you love most and help them overcome any obstacles they face. Changes at home will turn out well. Know in your heart what's important and make your choice based on what's best for yourself. \*\*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You have more to offer than you realize and, with your input, someone may be saved from making a costly mistake. You will eventually be rewarded but, for now, be happy you could do something for someone else. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** It will be easy to make an error in judgment if you are too vocal about what you can do. Underestimating the competition will cost you dearly. Spend more time romancing the person you love or meeting someone new, if you are single. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Put a little effort into your surroundings or a real estate investment or making a move that will benefit you professionally and personally.

You can lower your overhead if you are smart about handling money. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You need to have more fun. Leave work behind and enjoy the company of your lover or friends who make you laugh. Once you put your troubles on the backburner, you will realize that the answer to a problem you face is right in front of you. \*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You can please others with your decisions and should offer something to friends and family that will boost morale and make you a hero. Your experience and wisdom will help you make a good financial choice. \*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't take on too much. Enjoy the company of friends or get involved in a hobby that interests you. Most of all, avoid someone's wrath by refusing to disagree. \*\*\*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You will come up with a plan that can lead to greater income. You have plenty of talent, so hone your skills and apply them to a service that people will pay for. A beneficial change is in front of you. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** An old friend will surface, offering good advice and a shoulder to lean on. Don't worry about the things you cannot change. Look forward and prepare to make what you do now count. This is a good time to start something new. \*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Offer your services or extend a helping hand to people you love. Getting involved in

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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a new hobby or group endeavor will help you make an important decision regarding your home and family. Be true to yourself. \*\*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Your work is cut out for you. Some people will feel you have taken on too much and others, too little. What's important is that you satisfy your own needs. Focus on home, family and someone you love. \*\*\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Do not make a snap decision that will affect your status or your profession. Not everything will be clear and your tendency to over-analyze and overreact will lead to mistakes. Ask for help or discuss your concerns with someone you trust. \*\*

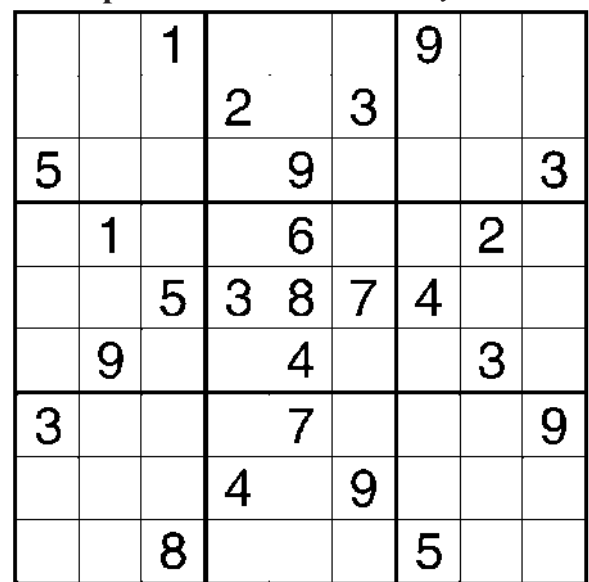
**Birthday Baby:** You are aggressive, play to win and have great determination and discipline. You think big and are prone to taking on too much.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

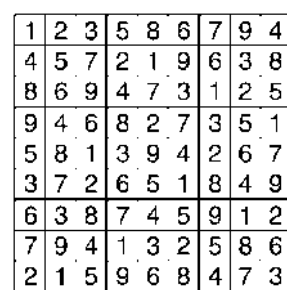


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them all. **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The letter letters spell the Wonderword.

POPPING BUBBLE WRAP IS FUN

Solution: 7 letters



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Active Adults, Balls, Buddy, Burst, Cheap, Children, Crush, Desire, Duds, Easy, Edges, Electronic, Feel, Finger, Gadget, Came, Gifts, Index, Long, Loud, Machine, Motion, Noise, Object, Pastime, Play, Pouches, Puffy, Quick, Resist, Rolling, Round, Sat, Sky, Scroll, Seal, Sheet, Silly, Smash, Snappers, Sound, Stomping, Therapy, Thumb, Trample, Urge, Wrap

Yesterday's Answer: Rhythm

This is a COLLECTED WONDERWORD. Words 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 are used in the puzzle. Words 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 are not used in the puzzle.

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# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



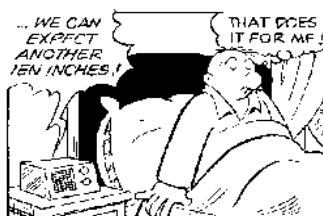
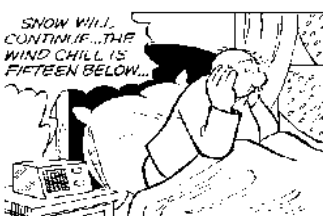
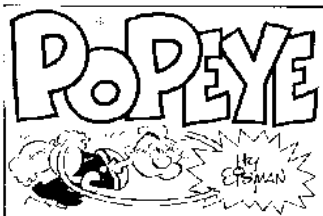
Differences: 1. "Today's" sign is missing. 2. Scarf is black. 3. Boy has a hat. 4. Mom's pants are on. 5. Boy's pants are not. 6. Boy's pants are not. 7. Boy's pants are not. 8. Boy's pants are not. 9. Boy's pants are not. 10. Boy's pants are not.

# Wishing Well®

3	6	8	6	5	6	4	8	2	8	3	4	6
A	Y	T	O	I	U	E	H	H	E	N	S	C
7	8	6	5	3	4	8	5	3	4	7	4	8
E	P	A	N	A	T	R	I	L	E	T	E	I
2	8	4	6	2	5	8	5	8	5	3	6	4
A	Z	M	N	P	T	E	I	I	A	Y	W	O
7	8	3	5	7	4	5	3	5	3	4	8	4
E	S	Z	T	R	F	E	N	A	C	Y	O	
8	3	4	8	3	5	2	6	7	3	7	4	5
O	C	W	U	T	E	P	I	N	I	A	O	W
2	7	3	4	5	7	3	4	5	3	2	5	6
Y	L	O	R	L	L	N	K	O	S	T	V	N
8	2	8	7	4	2	7	5	2	7	2	4	4
R	I	S	O	E	M	V	E	E	E	S	R	S

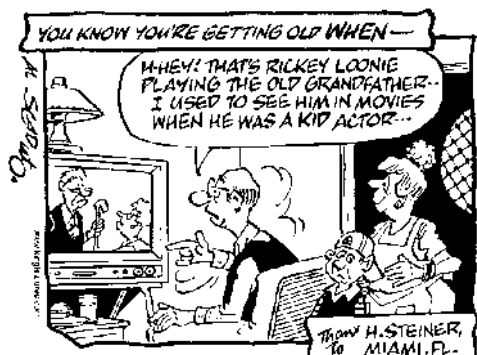
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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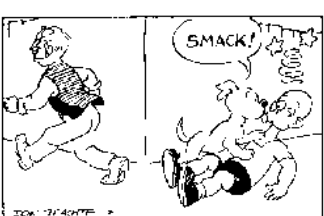
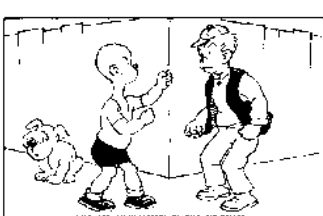
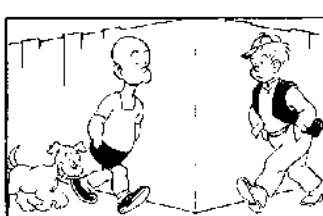
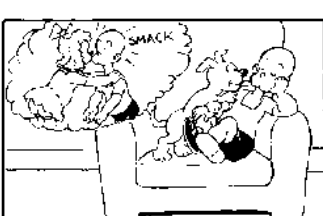
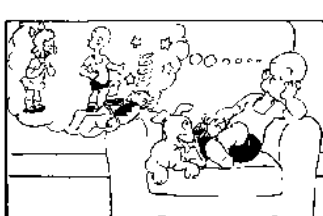
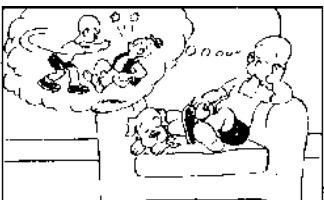
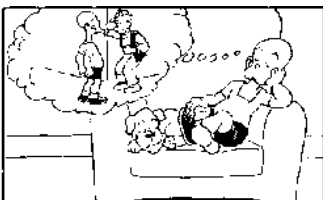
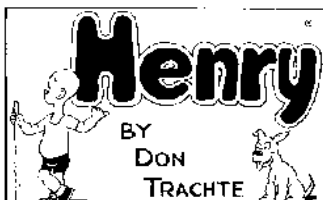


They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto



LIKE IT IS DEP'T- IN TEENAGER HEKKIE'S ROOM, THE DRAWERS, CLOSETS, CABINETS ARE LOADED WITH JUNK... AND WHAT IS EMPTY AND NEVER USED? ASK MOM... SHE KNOWS...



# Super Crossword

## BOVINES

### ACROSS

- Enjoys an enchilada
- Circus employee
- Hilarious Howard
- What you used to be
- Mennonite group
- Cheer
- Planted
- Bovine jazzman?
- Farmed
- fabulist
- Geometric figure
- Chrissie of The Pretenders
- Warts and all
- Actress Munson
- "May I interrupt?"
- Certain Semite
- Rocker Cassidy
- Pay
- Bovine auto racer?
- Fit
- Crony
- Director Ferrara
- Rock's — Trick
- Yellowish brown
- Chasm

### DOWN

- Adams or Astor
- Couch
- Maris of "Nurses"
- LAX letters
- Kimono closer
- Jab
- Noisy rack-et
- Mystical
- German city
- Electronic device
- Say please
- "Beat it"
- Bovine outlaw?
- Satiate
- Aviv
- Free-for-all
- Word with sister or story
- Costume sparkler
- Actor Kjellin
- Learn "ast"
- Spare tire
- Johnny Yuma, for one
- Mythical bird
- Periodic table abbr.
- Gave someone a smack
- Writer Runyon
- Rise
- Go in
- Beholds

### ACROSS

- Southern constellation
- Sue o' "Lolita"
- Bovine actress?
- "Cat —" ('65 film)
- Exodus edible
- Prudish one
- Melville work
- "— Day Now"
- "Beat it" ('62 hit)
- To be, to Baudelaire
- Entangle
- Puzzle
- Agnes
- Church law
- Brinks
- Banana-rama, e.g.
- Actress Susan
- Endangered animal
- Adjust a watch
- Time to evolve?

### DOWN

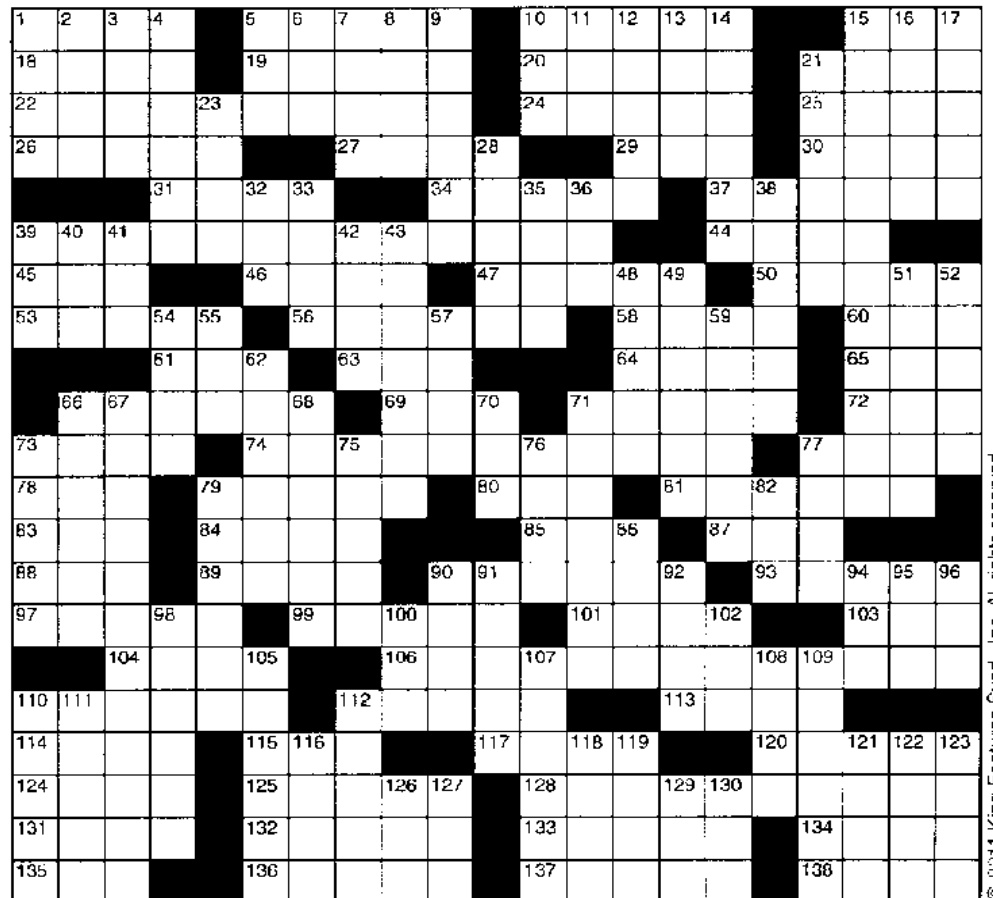
- Dairy treat
- Smidgen
- Internists' org.
- Jet-setter's need
- Egyptian deity
- Religious belief
- Bristol brew
- Bristol brew
- Jocular Jackie
- School founded in 1440
- Meal
- Bovine boxer?
- Proprietor
- "— Mine" ('85 film)
- Justice
- Antorin
- St.-to-be
- Aslound
- Chicken — king
- Iceberg's kin
- '68 US Open winner
- Exploit
- Small mail
- Hydro-therapy site
- Actor Hunter
- TV Tarzan
- Franco of "Camelo"

### ACROSS

- Drop
- Saiaad type
- Spongelike
- Bright inventor?
- Like Lincoln
- Spinter group
- Alphabet sequence
- Ingratiating
- Silo stuff
- Victoria's husband
- It's spotted at zoos
- Bovine band-leader?
- Louisiana university
- Geographical abbr.
- "Clair de Lune"
- composer
- Celebrities
- Car bomo?
- Grabs all the goodies
- Neighbor of Hispaniola
- Bob of basketball
- Proof letters
- Rock hound?
- Fager
- Castle or Cara
- "How is Your Love" ('77 hit)
- Deface

### DOWN

- Supper scrap
- Slangy denial
- Stockings
- TV listing abbr.
- Big —, CA
- Shade of meaning
- Ecclesiastical title
- Sage
- Put the match to
- Portendec
- "That's" ('53 tune)
- Loy or Blyth
- "A Face in the Crowd" address
- Discourteous
- They're after
- beaten
- Curly coil
- Equine accessory
- Aphrodisiac's son
- "— Ryan's Express" ('65 film)
- Remnant
- TV's "Haw"
- Presidential monogram



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the two houses of the British Parliament called?  
5. ANATOMY: What part of the human body does the disorder lumbago usually strike?  
6. GEOGRAPHY: What U.S. state lies west of Texas?

7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: During which president's administration did Henry Kissinger become secretary of state?  
8. MUSIC: For which war was the song "Over There" written?  
9. PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is

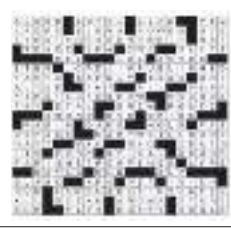
represented by doraphobia?  
10. HISTORY: When did Andrei Sakharov win the Nobel Peace Prize?

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- LITERATURE: What was O. Henry's real name?
- RELIGION: What was the Holy Grail?
- MOVIES: How many best-actor Oscar nominations did Spencer Tracy receive in his career?
- GOVERNMENT: What are

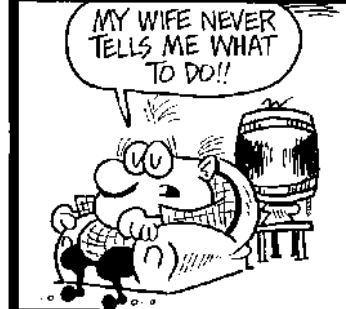
1. William Sydney Porter
2. A vessel used by Jesus at the Last Supper
3. Nine
4. The House of Lords and the House of Commons
5. The back
6. New Mexico
7. Richard Nixon
8. World War I
9. A fear of fire
10. 1975

## Saturday's Answers



## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering





# CLASSIFIED ADS



## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

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### CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

#### Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

# gaunt hand let

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

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2 bedroom apartment in San Roque Village. Newly renovated. \$300/month. Call James 483-6985.

WHATZIT Solution: Hand in glove

Pastimes

Garfield

Alomar, Blyleven elected to Hall of Fame

Saipan Tribune Sports

Rondo, Celtics on to beat Spurs

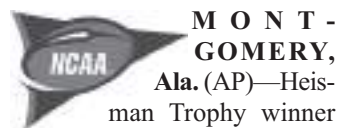
Minor wins doubles in Australia

Sablan, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts

Call 235-NEWS  
www.saipantribune.com



# Auburn QB Cam Newton to enter draft



**M O N T -  
G O M E R Y ,**

**Ala. (AP)—**Heis-

man Trophy winner

Cam Newton will skip his senior season and enter the NFL draft after leading Auburn to a national championship and drawing nearly as much attention for a pay-for-play scandal as for his dynamic performances.

Auburn released a statement Thursday night announcing the quarterback's decision following his lone year as a major college starter. Newton led the Tigers to their first national title since 1957 and a 14-0 season with a 22-19 victory over Oregon on Monday night.

"This decision was difficult for me and my family," Newton said, adding that he made it after talking to coach Gene Chizik and offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn.

"It's been a blessing for me to be a part of something so great," he said. "Any time you win games it's a big deal, but for this school to win a BCS national championship, what a way to make people happy. Auburn is a special place that I can call home."

The former backup to Tim Tebow at Florida arrived after leading Blinn College in Texas to a junior college national championship and won on a much bigger stage with the Tigers.

The national champions are waiting on Lombardi Award-winning defensive tackle Nick Fairley to announce his NFL decision on Friday in his hometown of Mobile. Fairley might



Auburn's Cam Newton celebrates with fans after beating Oregon 22-19 in the BCS National Championship NCAA college football game Monday, Jan. 10, 2011, in Glendale, Ariz.

be the No. 1 overall pick, but the 6-foot-6, 250-pound Newton is the guy that Chizik called "probably the best football player I've ever seen" after the Southeastern Conference championship game.

"We appreciate Cameron's many contributions to Auburn and the outstanding leader that

he was for our football team," Chizik said. "He had one of the greatest individual seasons ever by an Auburn player and was a key part of our championship run. Cam will always be a member of the Auburn family and we wish him the best in his future endeavors."

The College Park, Ga., native

was chosen the Walter Camp and Associated Press National Player of the Year. Newton also won the Maxwell Award as the nation's top player and the Davey O'Brien Award as the best quarterback.

The dual-threat quarterback brought joy to Auburn, but some troubles also came along

with him. He played under a cloud the last two months of the season after reports surfaced that his father, Cecil, shopped his services during Mississippi State's recruitment of his son.

All that came of it so far is that Auburn declared Newton ineligible the week of the SEC championship game against

South Carolina and the NCAA reinstated him a day later. The NCAA said it hasn't closed the case but that it had no evidence at the time that Cam Newton knew about his father's solicitation.

The case may prompt a new addition—call it "Newton's Law"—in the NCAA rule book.

It was prominent and polarizing enough that NCAA president Mark Emmert, speaking at the governing body's annual convention Thursday, called for new rules ensuring that parents can't "sell the athletic services" of their children.

"If you look at the Newton case, a lot of people came away from that, because it's a complicated case, saying, 'Gosh, it's OK for a father to solicit money for the services for his son or daughter?'" Emmert told reporters afterward. "The answer to that is no, it isn't. But we don't have a rule that makes that clear."

On the field, Newton rushed for 1,473 yards and 20 touchdowns while passing for 2,854 yards and 30 TDs. He set Auburn season records for both rushing and passing TDs and total offense and an SEC mark for yards on the ground by a quarterback.

Newton injured his back during the national title game but still passed for 265 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another 64.

He was good enough to prompt South Carolina coach and 1966 Heisman winner Steve Spurrier to marvel: "You can't tackle him. He's almost a one-man show."

## Broncos hire former Panthers coach John Fox



**ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—**John

Fox turned around a floundering franchise before. The Denver Broncos are counting on him to do it again.

Fox was picked over four other candidates to replace Josh McDaniels, who was fired Dec. 6 amid the Broncos' worst slide in four decades and the embarrassing Spygate II videotaping scandal.

The lost season led to a restructuring of the front office and the return of Hall of Famer John Elway as chief football executive. On Thursday, Elway hired Fox, the 55-year-old former Carolina Panthers coach to a four-year contract.

"For what this building needed, John Fox was the perfect fit for us," Elway said outside team headquarters before zipping off in his Bentley on Thursday evening.

"The one thing I saw in John he had great football wisdom," Elway said. "And I think that comes with the experience that he has. But not only does he have it on the defensive side,

## Browns hire Pat Shurmur as new coach

**CLEVELAND (AP)—**Pat Shurmur quickly turned rookie quarterback Sam Bradford into a rising NFL star. Shurmur's next project will be tougher.

The Cleveland Browns are no easy fix.

Shurmur, St. Louis' offensive coordinator the past two years, was hired by the Browns on Thursday, ending a search for their fifth coach since 1999 that began when team president Mike Holmgren fired Eric Mangini on Jan. 3 after his second straight 11-loss season.

Shurmur isn't a big-name hire, and his addition won't trigger a celebration by Browns fans or a rush of season-ticket requests.

But to Holmgren, the 45-year-old's last name means success.

Shurmur's late uncle, Fritz,

was Holmgren's defensive coordinator in Green Bay when the Packers won the Super Bowl in 1996. And in hiring a candidate with no head coaching experience, Holmgren is following the same path he took in getting to the top of his profession.

Like Shurmur, Holmgren was a quarterbacks coach and an offensive coordinator before getting the Packers' job in 1992. When Shurmur, who was the first of three known candidates to be interviewed, sat across the desk from Holmgren, Cleveland's top football executive may have seen a younger version of himself.

"Pat is a bright, young man who grew up in football and around the coaching profession," Holmgren said. "I came away from our interview very

impressed with him as a person, his extensive knowledge of the game and his track record of success as an assistant coach in this league.

"Most importantly, I feel as though he possesses the necessary qualities which make him the right man to lead our football team."

The Browns have a been a mess for far too long. In a league where quick turnarounds are common, they've been an exception to the rule. Cleveland has made the AFC playoffs just once and had nine double-digit loss seasons in 13 years. Chris Palmer, Butch Davis, Romeo Crennel and Mangini each failed in trying to build a consistent winner in Cleveland's expansion era.

Now, it's Shurmur's turn.

Fox went 78-74 including playoffs in nine seasons with the Panthers, who didn't renew his contract following an NFL-

worst 2-14 season.

"I'm very competitive," Fox said as he left the team's Dove Valley headquarters Thursday night. "Last year was obviously a very disappointing and very hard season, but that's all the more reason to jump back in and get things turned around here."

Fox and general manager Brian Xanders spent much of the day putting together a coaching staff. Speculation centered on Fox keeping Mike McCoy as Denver's offensive coordinator and hiring former Seahawks head coach Jim Mora Jr., as his defensive coordinator.

"There's been no decisions in that area yet," Fox said.

Fox's task in turning around this team seems as high and steep as the biggest peaks in the Rocky Mountains.

The Broncos are coming off a franchise-worst 4-12 season, own the second overall pick in the draft and are in need of a major overhaul—much like the Panthers were when Fox arrived in 2002 following a 1-15 season.

He led them to a 7-9 mark in his first year before guiding them to the 2004 Super Bowl in his second season.

Fox arrived in Denver on

Wednesday to meet with Elway after his flight out of North Carolina was delayed three times by winter weather. He was the fifth and final candidate interviewed, and his sit-down lasted 90 minutes longer than the others'.

Xanders said the interview lasted 5 1/2 hours, followed by a dinner with he, Elway and Fox that lasted just as long at Elway's Steakhouse.

"The more he talked, the more football wisdom came out in terms of different situations," Xanders told The Associated Press. "Running the defense, the offense, the nine years of head coach experience came out in his answers. And then his personality, his energy and positive outlook fit the Broncos model."

In the Broncos' new organizational structure, Elway oversees Xanders, who's in charge of roster-building, and Fox, who's in charge of the team.

"We spent some time at dinner, a long dinner after the interview, and the more we talked the more matched up we felt," Xanders said. "We fit in with each other."

Team president Joe Ellis told The AP he couldn't pick one thing he liked most about Fox.



# Durant scores 36, Thunder edges Magic

**OKLAHOMA CITY** (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 36 points, Russell Westbrook added 32 in his fourth career triple-double and the Oklahoma City Thunder fought off the Orlando Magic 125-124 Thursday night for their fourth straight win.

Westbrook also had 13 assists and 10 rebounds in Oklahoma City's highest-scoring game of the season. It was the second straight game the Thunder set a season high for points in regulation, and this time they even surpassed their output in a triple-overtime win against New Jersey.

Dwight Howard led Orlando with 39 points and 18 rebounds, and J.J. Redick made four 3-pointers and scored 18 points while leading a failed fourth-quarter comeback.

The Magic, who had been surging following those blockbuster trades that overhauled the roster, lost their second straight after a nine-game winning streak.

Jeff Green whirled and connected on a buzzer-beating 3-pointer from the left wing to provide the Thunder a little bit of cushion after Orlando had whittled a 12-point deficit down to 111-110 midway through the fourth quarter.

Redick went 3 for 3 from 3-point range during the Magic's 14-5 run, and Howard's hook shot inside got Orlando within one with 4:46 to play. After Westbrook missed a pair of free throws, Jameer Nelson missed a 3-pointer from the top of the key that would've put Orlando in front.

Instead, Durant hit a 3 at the other end and Green followed a few possessions later with his desperation 3 that made it 119-112 with 2:51 remaining.

Durant scored Oklahoma City's final six points as Orlando got within two three times in the final minute. He hit all

four of his free throws and hit a tricky leaner over Hedo Turkoglu from the left side with 8.1 seconds left after the Thunder had drained the shot clock.

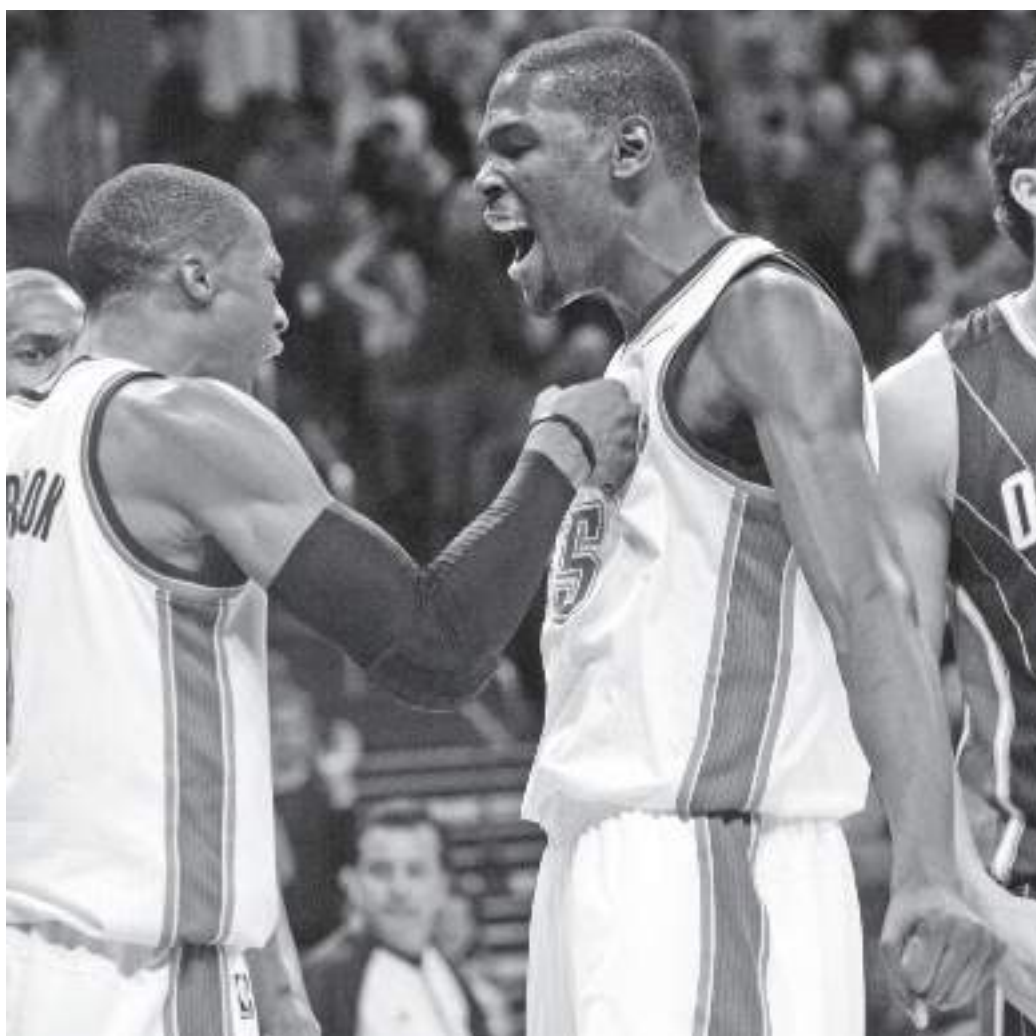
Jason Richardson hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to provide the final margin and finished with 19 points. Orlando never led.

Nenad Krstic led a strong start by Oklahoma City and wound up with 16 points and 11 rebounds. The Thunder are 7-0 in national TV games this season.

Oklahoma City teamed Westbrook and backup point guard Eric Maynor together in the backcourt late in the third quarter and started expanding on a five-point lead. Thabo Sefolosha hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to end the third quarter, then hit a jumper to start the fourth that put the Thunder up 98-86.

Even that lead wasn't safe with the Magic hitting half of their 28 tries from 3-point range.

Krstic had nine quick rebounds, matching his best total for a game this season, while powering Oklahoma City to an early 15-4 edge on the boards that translated into the scoring column, too. He set up Green's 3-pointer, earned two



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant, right, celebrates with teammate guard Russell Westbrook, left, after a basket by Westbrook in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Orlando Magic in Oklahoma City, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011.

free throws on a putback try and tipped in another shot during a 16-5 run that provided Oklahoma City with a 22-10 lead.

After missing 10 of its first 13 shots, Orlando got back into the game with strong 3-point shooting led by Ryan Anderson and Gilbert Arenas. The bench duo combined to go 5 for 10 from 3-point range as the Magic cut the deficit down to two before trailing 64-60 at halftime.

## Nuggets 130, Heat 102

In Denver, J.R. Smith scored 28 points off the bench, hitting eight 3-pointers, leading Denver to a comfortable win over a Miami team missing LeBron James.

Carmelo Anthony added 21 as the Nuggets kept up the form that saw them dismantle Phoenix by 34 points two days previously.

Chris Bosh scored 24 points for the Heat, who conceded the most points they have all season.

James sat out after spraining his left ankle the night before in a loss to the Los Angeles Clippers. Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said James would try to be available to play Saturday in Chicago.

## Timberwolves 109, Wizards 97

In Minneapolis, Minnesota's victory kept Washington winless on the road this season.

Kevin Love had 35 points and 11 rebounds and Darko Milicic had 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who trailed by four with 5:46 to play, but closed the game with a 19-1 surge to snap a five-game losing streak.

Love scored eight points during the run, making up for the absence of Michael Beasley, who was out with a sprained ankle.

John Wall had 14 points and 10 assists for the Wizards, who fell to 0-19 on the road. They are the only team in the NBA that has yet to win away from home this season.

## Blazers G Roy to have surgery on both knees

**PORTLAND, Ore.** (AP)—Portland Trail Blazers star Brandon Roy will have arthroscopic surgery on both of his knees next week.

The team says there is no timetable for the All-Star guard's return.

Roy has missed 16 games this season because of soreness in his knees, which he has said is caused by a lack of cartilage.

Roy is averaging 16.6 points in 23 games this season. For his career, the three-time All-Star and 2007 NBA Rookie of the Year is averaging 19.9 points and 4.9 assists.

Roy's decision to have surgery was first reported by the Portland Tribune newspaper on its website. It will be performed next week by Dr. Don Roberts.

"I'm trying to do the best thing I can to get back on the floor," Roy said in a statement Thursday. "We've been able to get a number of different opinions and it's something we've decided."

Last season, Roy had arthroscopic surgery to repair the meniscus in his right knee two days before the Blazers opened their first-round play-

off series against Phoenix. He made a remarkable comeback and played in the fourth game of the series, which the Suns eventually won.

In an interview Thursday posted on the team's website, Blazers.com, Roy said he may have been putting strain on his left knee after having the procedure on his right knee.

"The biggest thing, I said in the beginning of this process, I'm going to be patient with it and I'm going to try to think long-term," Roy said. "The team has really backed me with that and hasn't tried to rush me.

Just try to be patient with it and try to get me back as close to feeling good as possible."

The team announced on Dec. 30 that Roy would sit out indefinitely this season.

The Blazers have been stung by key injuries. Often-injured center Greg Oden is out for the season after having microfracture knee surgery.

Second-year forward Jeff Pendergraph also injured his knee and required season-ending surgery. And rookie guard Elliot Williams has undergone surgery this season on both knees.

## Source: Yanks reach deal with reliever Soriano

**NEW YORK** (AP)—AL saves leader Rafael Soriano and the New York Yankees have reached agreement on a three-year contract that could be worth \$35 million to the free-agent reliever, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday because the deal has not been finalized. Soriano must pass a physical to complete the contract.

The deal allows Soriano to opt out after his first or second season with the Yankees. He's likely to become the primary setup man for 41-year-old closer Mariano Rivera, who

recently signed a two-year deal for \$30 million.

Soriano was successful on 45 of 48 save chances last season in helping Tampa Bay edge out the wild-card Yankees for the AL East title. The 31-year-old righty was 3-2 with a 1.73 ERA in his only year with the Rays and was a member of the AL All-Star team.

The deal would mark the first major free-agent addition for the Yankees this offseason after they missed out on ace Cliff Lee.

Soriano becomes the latest prominent player to leave the cost-cutting Rays, who have won two of the past three AL East titles. Speedy outfielder Carl Crawford and first base-

man Carlos Pena departed as free agents this offseason, in addition to relievers Joaquin Benoit, Dan Wheeler and Randy Choate. Starting pitcher Matt Garza and shortstop Jason Bartlett were traded.

AL East rival Boston has been especially busy this winter, signing Crawford and trading for All-Star first baseman Adrian Gonzalez.

Soriano is assured \$11.5 million, even if he decides to leave the Yankees after the first year. He's guaranteed \$22.5 million for staying at least two seasons.

The Yankees hope he remains in the bullpen for all three years and maybe even longer, possibly as Rivera's eventual successor as the closer.

## Play washed out at Sony Open in Hawaii

**HONOLULU** (AP)—All those rookies ready to start their PGA Tour careers will have to wait another day.

The opening round of the Sony Open, the first full-field event of the season, was washed out Thursday because of heavy overnight rain that left too much water on Waialae Country Club. Once the sun came up and officials could see, it was a quick decision. Some fairways and bunkers were filled with large puddles.

"The golf course is under water," PGA Tour tournament director Mark Russell said. "We've got some more rain coming, and we just didn't think that we could get it in tournament condition today."

The plan is to play the opening two rounds on Friday and

Saturday, with 36 holes on Sunday. The cut will be the nearest number to 60 players, although everyone in the top 70 will get credit for making the cut and will get paid.

Rain is not unusual, although Russell could not remember an

entire day being washed out in three decades working this tournament.

The pro-am was canceled Wednesday because of rain and wet conditions, and with the course at its limit because of rain over the holidays, nearly 4 inches fell overnight.

The locker room was lined with golf bags that had rain cov-

ers on, along with extra towels to prepare for the conditions. Players were looking for something to do, because even the practice range was closed.

Jhonattan Vegas of Venezuela, one of 26 rookies in the field who was to tee off Thursday morning, was asking about golf courses on the other side of Oahu until learning it rains even harder there.

Finishing on Sunday takes on even more importance. The PGA Tour next goes to the California desert for the Bob Hope Classic, a 90-hole tournament that starts Wednesday across four golf courses. If there is a Monday finish, players in the Hope would not be able to arrive until Tuesday afternoon and would not be able to see any of the courses ahead of time.





**TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**

**NBA STANDINGS**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	29	9	.763	—
New York	22	16	.579	7
Philadelphia	15	23	.395	14
Toronto	13	25	.342	16
New Jersey	10	28	.263	19

**Southeast Division**

Miami	30	11	.732	—
Atlanta	26	14	.650	3 1/2
Orlando	25	14	.641	4
Charlotte	15	21	.417	12 1/2
Washington	10	27	.270	18

**Central Division**

Chicago	25	13	.658	—
Indiana	16	20	.444	8
Milwaukee	14	22	.389	10
Detroit	12	26	.316	13
Cleveland	8	30	.211	17

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

San Antonio	33	6	.846	—
Dallas	26	11	.703	6
New Orleans	23	16	.590	10
Memphis	18	21	.462	15
Houston	17	22	.436	16

**Northwest Division**

Oklahoma City	27	13	.675	—
Utah	26	13	.667	1/2
Denver	22	16	.579	4
Portland	20	19	.513	6 1/2
Minnesota	10	30	.250	17

**Pacific Division**

L.A. Lakers	29	11	.725	—
Phoenix	16	21	.432	11 1/2
Golden State	15	23	.395	13
L.A. Clippers	13	24	.351	14 1/2
Sacramento	8	28	.222	19

**Yesterday's Games**

Minnesota 109, Washington 97  
Oklahoma City 125, Orlando 124  
Denver 130, Miami 102

**NBA LEADERS**

**SCORING**

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	34	318	267	960	28.2
Stoudemire, NYK	36	356	227	945	26.3
James, MIA	39	336	264	988	25.3
Ellis, GOL	37	347	176	933	25.2
Bryant, LAL	38	335	234	957	25.2
Wade, MIA	37	320	251	923	24.9
Rose, CHI	36	324	170	876	24.3
Nowitzki, DAL	29	260	153	700	24.1
Anthony, DEN	29	240	195	690	23.8
Gordon, LAC	34	266	209	800	23.5
Martin, HOU	37	249	280	859	23.2
Westbrook, OKC	38	283	254	831	21.9
Williams, UTA	38	264	237	830	21.8
Griffin, LAC	36	299	182	784	21.8
Bargnani, TOR	31	253	123	667	21.5
Beasley, MIN	36	307	118	765	21.3
Howard, ORL	35	259	223	741	21.2
Love, MIN	38	267	218	804	21.2
Gay, MEM	36	290	128	756	21.0
Granger, IND	33	240	135	686	20.8

**FG PERCENTAGE**

	FG	FGA	PCT
Hilario, DEN	171	273	.626
Okafor, NOR	162	279	.581
Odom, LAL	239	422	.566
Howard, ORL	259	459	.564
Horford, ATL	274	488	.561
Ibaka, OKC	152	271	.561
Boozer, CHI	184	329	.559
Millap, UTA	265	485	.546
Nowitzki, DAL	260	477	.545
Young, PHL	182	337	.540

**REBOUNDS**

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Love, MIN	38	185	411	596	15.7
Howard, ORL	35	122	336	458	13.1
Randolph, MEM	34	153	281	434	12.8
Griffin, LAC	36	141	314	455	12.6
Camby, POR	35	114	284	398	11.4
Gasol, LAL	38	134	277	411	10.8
Okafor, NOR	38	111	268	379	10.0
Odom, LAL	38	92	280	372	9.8
Horford, ATL	39	98	278	376	9.6
Duncan, SAN	37	103	242	345	9.3

**ASSISTS**

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	26	348	13.4
Nash, PHX	33	353	10.7
Paul, NOR	38	369	9.7
Williams, UTA	38	355	9.3
Wall, WAS	23	203	8.8
Felton, NYK	36	313	8.7
Kidd, DAL	36	312	8.7
Rose, CHI	36	292	8.1
Westbrook, OKC	38	305	8.0
Calderon, TOR	31	245	7.9

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Pacific Games qualifiers for beach v-ball set

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER



The Northern Marianas Volleyball Association will hold a series of qualifying beach volleyball tournaments, practices, and training sessions starting on Jan. 23.

Teams will have the opportunity to score points toward qualifying for the CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team that will see action in regional tournaments including the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia.

The two highest scoring teams in both the men's and women's divisions will be given priority consideration by the selection committee. Final team selections will be determined following the last qualifier event in the series.

"Following directions from FIVB (Federation Internationale de Volleyball) and AVC (Asian Volleyball Confederation), NMIVA is moving ahead with plans to select the CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team," said NMIVA president Laurie Peterka.

Peterka added, "FIVB and AVC are guiding NMIVA on a long-term vision. They are willing to provide support for our national beach volleyball teams and are helping to provide support in bringing FIVB and AVC beach volleyball events to the CNMI."

The first qualifier tips off next Sunday, Jan. 23, at Pacific Islands Club. There will be a men's and women's division with registration starting at 8:30am; games start at 9pm. Additional information regarding practices, train-



ing, coaches, etc. will be shared at this first event.

Copies of related documents will also be made available at this time. Interested teams are encouraged to visit [www.nmivolleyball.org](http://www.nmivolleyball.org) for the specific Athlete Selection Criteria to determine whether they are qualified to participate.

"We have established our criteria based on guidance from the FIVB, the AVC, and NMASA. If interested players need assistance in determining their eligibility, we are here to help," said NMIVA vice president Gabriel White.

White also stated, "It's important that teams play together throughout the qualification process as teams will be scored in pairs, not on an individual basis."

The qualification period will conclude with the FIVB's World Cup-AVC Subzonal Olympic Qualifying event.

National teams from Australia, Papua New Guinea, Guam, and the CNMI will compete in a best-of-five tournament at PIC from March 4 to March 6.

The FIVB event will follow this year's Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival at Fiesta Resort & Spa from Feb. 25 to Feb. 27. The Marianas Kids Cup will follow the FIVB event on March 13.

For more information, visit [www.nmivolleyball.org](http://www.nmivolleyball.org) or email [www.nmivolleyball.com](mailto:www.nmivolleyball.com).

Bruce Berline in action during a NMIVA-sanctioned beach volleyball tournament last year. This month, NMIVA will have a series of qualifying tournaments for the 2011 Pacific Games.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## VINE

From Page 28

my first Tagaman attempt and I think I can improve on it now that I have some experience," Vine said.

In last year's Tagaman, Vine

clocked in at 3:00:10 and again placed second to Gardner (2:59:23). Gardner went on to win the PIC Double, while Vine settled for the runner-up honors.

Vine bowed to Gardner despite finishing ahead in the 2-kilometer swim

leg in the waters off the Pacific Islands Club. Vine timed in at 28:06 against Gardner's 30:11. The Canadian lost the lead in the bike leg, as Gardner completed the 60-km bike in 1:28:41 against Vine's 1:34:08. Vine had the best time in the 15-km run portion at

56:07, but it was not enough to beat Gardner, who recorded 58:29 to win Tagaman and the PIC Double. PIC Double winners are determined by combining the times of participants in XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman Triathlon.

## ISLAND

From Page 28

heading into the final 19 minutes of play.

Interestingly, Under The Rim's bench players took the floor and still outscored Blood, 16-12, in the third quarter.

Under The Rim showed no signs of letting up in the final period as Yosh Gabaldon delivered seven points in the fourth quarter to secure the victory.

Lizama finished with a team-high 18 points for Under The Rim, while Babauta came alive in the second pe-

riod and led all scorers with 24 points in the loss.

In Thursday's other rescheduled game, The House won via forfeit against Ol'Aces.

Ol'Aces could have tied Under The Rim in the division standings with a win, but elected not to challenge its first place opponent. The House finished the season undefeated in six games and is a heavy favorite for the 40A division title.

The first round of the MBFNMI 40A and 45A divisional playoffs tip off tonight at the Ada Gym starting with the 6:30pm 45A matchup

between top-ranked Undertakers against the fourth-seeded Kitty Kat-Ferrera Builders.

It will be followed at 8pm with 40A action featuring The House taking on Under The Rim.

From there the playoffs will continue under the same format next Tuesday when 45A's second-ranked Top 45's challenging third seed Taga Security, followed by the 40A knockout game between second-ranked Armatech and No. 3 Islander Rent-A-Car.

In other news, MBFNMI's 2010 Memorial Cup All-Star games for the 35A, 40A, and 45A divisions are scheduled to

take place on Jan. 22 beginning 7pm.

Additionally, the 35A division season will start on April 6. Interested participants are encouraged to email [www.mastersbasketball\\_670@yahoo.com](mailto:www.mastersbasketball_670@yahoo.com) for more information.

**Island Apparel 77** – Under the Rim - Lizama 18, Norman 14, Gabaldon 12, Irinaka 7, D Masga 6, Olivos 6, Pangilinan 5, Flores 3, G Masga 3, Sablan 3.

**AON Blood 52** – Babauta 24, Cabrera 10, Aldan 7, Bucalig 4, Butalid 3, Camacho 2, Morales 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-8, 38-20, 54-32, 77-52.

## MINOR

From Page 28

The win over Minor moved Gregor to the quarterfinals, along with seven other players. Gregor will challenge No. 5 Kristen McSweeney in the next round, while the three other quarterfinal pairings will have Madaline Nedanovski facing No. 6 Imke Barnard, unseeded Tarani Kamoe dueling No. 3 Alyssa Savill, and Assya Trimari meeting No. 2 Katerina Valos.

Kamoe of Fiji is the lone Junior ITF Pacific Oceania Touring Team member left standing in the main draw. She won over Annelyi Pokras via walkover and then stunned eighth seed Hope Curtis-McDonald, 6-0, 6-4, to march into the quarterfinals. The Round of 8 games were scheduled yesterday.

Annie Shannon, also of Fiji, was the third Junior ITF Pacific Oceania Touring Team member to enter the U16 singles draw, but failed to play her first round game against Samu-

elle Bull due to an injury.

With their losses, Shannon and Minor dropped to the consolation draw and must win three games to rule the bracket. Minor was scheduled to battle Claudia Hartford-Love in the consolation draw yesterday, while Shannon was pitted against Bronwyn Plowman.

Minor was also entered in the U16 doubles and she and teammate Sabine Ludwig were slated to fight Kamoe and Shannon in the first round.

The tournament in Wodonga is Mi-

nor's last. She first competed in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Victoria, and topped the girls U18 doubles with teammate Amanda Korinihona of the Solomon Islands and then made it to the semifinals of the U18 singles. Minor also joined the U16 singles and ruled the consolation draw. Her second tournament was the 2011 Post Margaret Court Cup in Albury, New South Wales, and Minor struggled, losing her opening games both in the U16 singles and doubles events.

the final set, 15-11, to complete the sweep.

The season continues next Thursday at 4:30pm when Grace Christian Academy takes the court for the first time to

battle MHS 2 on the north end of the MHS Gym, while KHS hosts SSHS on the south court. Then at 5:30pm, GCA will stay on the north court to challenge visiting SIS as MHS 2 hosts its sister

team MHS 1 on the south end.

For more information about the MISO Girls Varsity Volleyball season, contact Nick Gross at [nickgross07@gmail.com](mailto:nickgross07@gmail.com).

## SIS

From Page 28

first set, 25-7, and went on to win the second match, 25-10. SIS then took





Mike Vine pedals up to Mt. Tapochao during the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Vine hopes to end bridesmaid finish

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Canadian Mike Vine will be back for the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship and is aiming to finish on top of the field this year.

"I'm planning to go to Saipan, it is one of my favorite trips to do. Last year was my third trip to Saipan and it's getting better every time. I've made friends there and there's some great camaraderie with both the locals and visiting racers," Vine said.

"Since last year I moved from the balmy BC Coast over to Northern Alberta and I am spending my first real Canadian winter up here so I'll be appreciating a trip to the tropics on Saipan all that much more now. It's been highs of -20 this whole week here in Calgary," he added.

Vine won the inaugural edition of the XTERRA Crown Jewel in 2002, timing in at two hours, 36 minutes, and 23 seconds and defeating Japan's Hideo Fukui (2:41:15) and Australia's Jason Chalker (2:46:51).

The 36-year-old Canadian then went on to miss the next six editions of the annual triathlon race before competing in the off-road event for back-to-back years (2009 and 2010). In those two years, the British Colum-

bia native finished runner-up to United Kingdom's Sam Gardner. Last year, Vine timed in at 3:34:46 against Gardner's 3:34:03, while in 2009, the Canadian posted 2:37:18 against the British's 2:34:32.



"In this year's XTERRA, defending champ Sam Gardner will show up on top form again so I really want to be in a position to take him on after finishing second to him the last two years. Beating Sam will be the priority above all else," Vine said.

The 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship will hit the road on March 12 with the CNMI expecting to draw participants from Guam, Japan, Korea, and the mainland.

On March 19, it will be the turn of Tagaman Triathlon to take the center stage and Vine said he is planning to compete in the longer race, too.

"I'm planning to stay for the Tagaman again and compete for the PIC Double. Last year was

See VINE on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Thea Minor, seen here getting ready to serve in a local tournament, won her opening game in the U16 singles event of the 2011 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships last Thursday in Wodonga in Victoria, Australia.

## Minor tops New Caledonia netter in Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis player Thea Minor won her opening game in the 2011 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships last Thursday in Wodonga in Victoria, Australia.

Minor swept New Caledonia's Yaelle Honakoko in the first round of the 32-player main draw, 6-3, 6-4, to advance to the second round of the U16 singles event at the Wodonga Tennis Centre.

However, in the second round, Minor bowed to tournament No. 1 Maddison Gregor. The Commonwealth junior netter and Gregor battled neck-and-neck in the first set before Minor lost, 6-7. Then after a tight opening set, Minor ran out of steam in the second set, which Gregor won convincingly, 6-0.

The Saipan Southern High School freshman played both games in one day, as she saw action in the first round at 11:45am and then met her seeded foe in the second round at 2:45pm.

See MINOR on Page 27

## Island Apparel sneaks into 40A playoff race



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Island Apparel-Under the Rim's Amor Zapata drives to the hoop in their game against Islands Rent-A-Car. Under The Rim defeated AON-Blood, 77-52, last Thursday to advance to the MBFNM 40A playoffs which start tonight.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER



Island Apparel-Under The Rim snuck into the playoffs of the Master Basketball Federation of the NMI Memorial Cup 40A division after defeating AON-Blood, 77-52, in their makeup game Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ray Lizama led Under The Rim's charge in the opening quarter with eight markers that helped his team build an early 19-8 lead.

Then Scott Norman's eight points kept it going for Under The Rim in the second period as Blood's offense continued to stall and they entered halftime down 20-38.

Blood standout Frank Babauta was contained to only six points in the first half forcing Bernard Cabrera to take on the cudgels with eight markers.

Under The Rim marched on after the break and amassed a 22-point chokehold, 54-32,

See ISLAND on Page 27



A Saipan International School player jumps up for a spike during last Thursday's MISO Varsity Girls Volleyball season opener at Marianas High School Gymnasium.  
WALTER SUTHERLAND

## SIS sweeps KHS in MISO girls v-ball

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER



Saipan International School notched its second win in as many games after sweeping Kagman High School in all three sets of their second game in the Marianas Interscholastic

Sports Organization Girls Varsity Volleyball season opener Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Notably, SIS is now tied in the standings with MHS 1 as the league's two undefeated squads.

SIS exhibited a dominating performance; taking the

See SIS on Page 27